STARS STRIPES.

Brutal storm moves east across U.S.

Yokota security forces deploying to protect tsunami-relief efforts

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2005



Mom's convictions overturned in deaths of her kids

Lawmakers fighting to avoid carrier cuts

Fla. congressmen introduce law to require at least 12 in fleet



PLAYOFFS

Wild weekend

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COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Great Wall still a mystery



Scene on Sunday

3-D maps boost military fun factor

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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Ukraine election: The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected losing nnesidential candidate Viktor Vanuk ovych's appeal of last month's presi-

dential revote. The three-judge panel threw out his appeal, which alleged massive fraud and asked the court to invalidate voting in all of

Ukraine's 225 electoral districts. The panel did not immediately explain its ruling. The appeal was a bid to overturn the Cen-

tral Election Commission's unanimous refusal last week to consider a similar com-

Yanukovych, who still has one more chance to overturn the election results, has said openly he had little hope of success, but has vowed to fight on against the Dec. 26 vote, which preliminary results show Yushchenko winning.

nian rock star death: A U.S. Marine who left Romania after being involved in a Dec. 3 fatal auto accident in Bucharest while serving as a member of the U.S. Embassy security detail there, is still working at his battalion headquarters in Quantico. Va. The case is still under investigation, a Marine spokesman said.

Staff Sgt. Christopher R. VanGoethem, who was commander of the embassy's security detachment at the time, was taken out of Romania within a day after the accident that killed Teofil Peter, a popular Romanian musician.

The Romanian government asked the Untied States to waive VanGoethem's immunity and return him to Bucharest to be ques-

But on Thursday, State Department snokesman Lou Fintor said it was premature to consider the request until the investigation by Naval Criminal Investigative Service is finished

War on terrorism

Padilla trial challenge: Attorneys defending an American accused of participating in an al-Qaida plot to set off a "dirty bomb" have issued a challenge to federal prosecutors: prove it or free him.

Jose Padilla's attorneys on Wednesday asked U.S. District Judge Henry Floyd to hear their writ of habeas corpus, a petition that allows a civilian judge to consider their case. Padilla was not present.

Padilla was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare

International Airport in 2002 after returning from Pakistan. The federal government has said he received weapons and explosives training from members of al-Oaida.

WorldCom lawsuit: Ten former World-Com board members have tentatively agreed to pay \$54 million, a third of it from their own pockets, to settle their portion of a lawsuit brought over the company's collapse, according to published reports Thurs-

The outside directors agreed in principle to pay \$18 million of their own money, with the remaining \$36 million to be paid by the directors' liability insurers, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported. The class-action suit was brought by investors who lost billions when WorldCom went under in a multibillion-dollar accounting

US Airways financial troubles: A bankruptcy judge on Thursday canceled a collective bargaining agreement between US Airways and its machinists union, providing millions of dollars in annual savings that the airline says will prevent the need for imminent liquidation.

The termination of the contract with the International Association of Machinists would result in pay cuts for union workers ranging from 6 percent to 35 percent and the loss of thousands of union jobs.

N.H. murder case: Pamela Smart, the key figure in New Hampshire's most publicized murder trial, is asking for a pardon.

Smart, 37, was convicted in 1991 of persuading her teenage lover and his friends to murder her husband. Four teens, including one who admitted pulling the trigger, testified against her in a trial that was televised live around the state, and prompted several books and a movie.

In a pardon request filed last week with the attorney general's office, Smart repeats her arguments that she didn't get a fair trial because of all the media attention and her sentence was too harsh

Spector trial transcripts: A California ap peals court has denied a request by attorneys for famed rock music producer Phil Spector to keep grand jury transcripts in his murder case sealed

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los

Angeles issued a one-line judgment Wednes day denying the petition and upholding a Superior Court judge's ruling in November that the transcripts should be released.

Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler said Spector's lawyers failed to show how releasing the documents would prevent a fair jury from being chosen for the trial.

Michael Jackson trial: A comedy club owner who is a witness in the Michael Jackson molestation case held a news conference in Los Angeles to accuse the singer's defense team of harassing him.

As soon as he wrapped up his remarks Wednesday, he was served with a fresh defense subpoena

Jamie Masada who owns the Laugh Factory in Hollywood, introduced Jackson to the boy who is accusing the pop star of molestation. The boy had participated in Masada's comedy camp for underprivileged children and was battling cancer when Jackson met him at Masada's urging.

Space station problems: The space station crew is spending the new year dealing with an old problem: a broken oxygen generator

The primary machine for producing oxygen aboard the international space station stopped working again Saturday. The cabin atmosphere was replenished Tuesday with oxygen from the supply ship that arrived on Christmas Day with much-needed food.

Cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov and astronaut Leroy Chiao spent most of Wednesday trying to fix the Russian-built oxygen gener-ator. The latest problem appears to be similar to what crippled the system last year.

Military

Abu Ghraib trials: An Army reservist seen prominently in the photos of Iraqi prisoners who were suffering sexual humiliation and other brutality at the Abu Ghraib prison goes to trial Friday in Fort Hood, Texas.

Barring last-minute plea deals, Spc.

Charles Graner of Uniontown, Pa., will be the first of four soldiers from the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company to be tried for crimes that allegedly occurred in the Baghdad prison in late 2003.

Among the soldiers is Pfc. Lynndie England, who in October gave birth to a child that Army prosecutors claim was the result of an extramarital affair with Graner Her Fort Hood trial has not yet been scheduled. From staff and wire reports

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Military adjusts plans as aid efforts advance

By FRED ZIMMERMAN Stars and Stripes

UTAPAO, Thailand — With more assessments coming in and even more supplies going out, the overall plan for the U.S. military's humanitarian relief mission in tsunami-stricken South Asia has

The military task force heading the operation, formerly Joint Task Force S36, now is called Combined Support Force S36, and it's leading the newly dubbed "Operation United Assistance." The United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia have joined forces to provide relief to the region, according to a CSF-S36 sookesman.

ing to a CSF-30s spokesman.

Another change in the operations plan is to be the breakup of the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, which is carrying the 15th Marme Expedition-rying the 15th Marme Expedition-rying the 15th Marme Expedition-line than the properties of the properties planting team member, said now just one ship from the group will head to Sri Lanka to help relief efforts there. The former plan had called for one ship to stay off Indonesia

U.S. forces realigned to meet evolving needs for tsunami disaster

and the group's remaining two ships to head to Sri Lanka.

After further assessment, Krieg said, "we need less in Sri Lanka than we originally thought."

The ship will carry items including water production equipment, heavy machinery and helicopters, and transport more personnel to help in Sri Lanka.

The 15th MEU and the ships carrying it are headed to the Middle East for a combat tour. Krieg said their current schedule gave them a two-week window in which they could stop here and lend a hand.

telling and the Indonesian is the dof Sumatra will join the U.S. Navy vessels from Expeditionary Strike Group 5, which have been there since Jan. 2. Krieg said the Bonhomme Richard ships will cover Indonesia's west coast south of Meulaboh and ESG 5 will cover the coastline north of the port city. When all ships are in place, a total of 46 het licopters will be ferrying sup-

While forces are being reproposed throughout the region, so too is how relief supplies are getting in. Krieg said some supplies now are being flown directly into areas where they're needed. The original plan was to use Utapao as the main hub and distribute supplies from there.

"We're tailoring our operations from the starter kit we assembled" with the units. Krieg said.

With almost 12,000 of the approximately 14,500 U.S. servicemembers in the region belonging to the Navy, Krieg said, the operation's "focus of efforts are sea-based."

As of Wednesday, he said, 48 tons of supplies had been delivered in Indonesia, 134 tons to Thailand and two tons to Sri Lanka, where relief operations just began. A total of 169 sorties had been flow by C-130 transport planes; 145 helicopter sorties had gone out, 113 by the H-60 Seahawk, and 32 by CH-46s.

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@pstripes.osd.mil

DOD's cost: \$6M a day

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Defense Department is spending about \$6 million a day to operate the fleet of ships, aircraft and other military resources that have joined the tsunami relief effort in south Asia, a spokesman said Thursday.

Army Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon public affairs officer, said the \$6 million per day covers a U.S. contingent of about 13,000 military personnel, of which about 12,000 are aboard 17 Navy ships in the region hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and resulting Isunami.

The latest ship to join the effort was the USNS Mercy, a hospital ship that set sail Wednesday evening from San Diego. It is initially staffed to support 250 patient beds but could be expanded to 1,000 beds with addi-

tional medical staff. The humanitarian organization Project HOPE has expressed interest in providing medical staff for the Mercy, which will take about 30 days to weath south Acid

days to reach south Asia.

Still en route to the area from Okinawa is the USS Fort McHenry, with 400 Marines and sailors and six CH-46 helicopters aboard. It is expected to arrive off the coast of Indonesia in the next several days.

The biggest share of the estimated \$6 million-a-day cost is

for the USS Abraham Lincoln battle group, which was in port at Hong Kong when the Isunami struck and was the first U.S. Navy group to arrive on the scene last week. Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, has said it

Pacific Command, has said it costs about \$2.5 million a day to operate the Lincoln group, which has 17 helicopters aboard.

Yokota airmen to bolster security at relief points

BY VINCE LITTLE Stars and Strings

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota was slated to beef up its role in the U.S. military's massive tsunami-relief effort this week by dispatching about 30 personnel from the 374th Security Forces Squadron to South Asia

They'll focus primarily on ensuring aircraft and installations there are protected but the group likely also will be asked to perform crowd control when aid packages are handed out, particularly in remote loca-

"As we've all seen on the TV news reports, lots of poolege et yer; close to the aircraft, with outstretched arms." said 1st Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "Security forces will be there to make sure the distribution process is a little more orderly. We want to get the relief supplies to those people but sometimes you've got to go into an area where there's a lot of activity. Having security forces with you is an added bonus because you know you can control the environment a little better.

"All the jobs that security forces handle, they'll be doing in a deployed environment," Comer said. "They're not going into a hostile environment or war zone, but a devastation area where we'll provide relief."

The scheduled deployment will raise Yokota's force commitment in Operation Unified Assistance to about 270 troops. That includes Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlith Wing commander, and 45 other airmen from the maintenance squadron and his immediate staff who left for South Asia on Thursday morning. Late Wednesday, the security forces tar-

geted for departure rolled up their sleeves—
figuratively and literally—for last-minute immunizations, legal checkups and consultations with finance, public health and family support center representatives. Vokota's chaplain corps also was part of the deployment line, set up in the back of Building 400 near the flightline.

"Each of those stations is designed to make sure people's affairs are in order and



VINCE LITTLE/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rinehart, left, of the 374th Comptroller's Squadron, addresses financial concerns Wednesday night at a deployment line set up in Building 400, near Yokota Air Base's flightline. More airmen left this week for South Asia to take part in the U.S. military's massive tsumami-relief efforts.

they're deployable," said 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "It's a safety net, so they don't have something looming over their heads while they're gone. They always try to do a mass line, especially for a short-notice TDY. We make sure to take care of these issues so they can fulfill the mission."

Airman 1st Class Randy Gingery, making his first career deployment, said he isn't sure what to expect in South Asia, where the staggering death foll from last month's catastrophic earthquake and tsunamis has reached 150,000, with tens of thousands more people injured. He's just hoping to help provide humanitarian assistance and restore order.

"I'm going to look for the best and not hope for the worst," Gingery said. "I'm nervous but I've been trained and know what to do if anything gets out of hand. I'm pretty confident." Yokota's security forces train regularly in

Yokota's security forces train regularly in riot control, said 1st Lt. Gregory Holmgren, the squadron's executive officer. The contingent is carrying that type of gear on the trip, just in case such a situation arises.

But once they get to Utapao, Thailand — the main relief-distribution hub being used by the U.S. military — security of the airfield and tent sites will be the unit's top priority, he added.

"Being able to maintain crowd control is essential," Holmgren said. "We're going down there to maintain the peace and protect our people at the same time."

Once the outlying parts of the devastated region become safer, Yokota security forces

See more tsunami-related stories and photos on Page 7 and Stripes' Web site at www.stripes.com

may be asked to tag along on helicopter-relief missions to better secure the aircraft as crews hand out food, water and emergency medical supplies to the tragedy's survivors, according to Capt. Bill Barron, the squadron's operations officer.

"Helicopters are going where trucks and airplanes can't," Barron said. "Many roadways have been destroyed, so the only way to get anything in is with helicopters. It's possible we'll go to different areas that have smaller airfields with none to very little security. If that happens, we'll go out to protect the aircraft."

But this trip is hardly being viewed as routine by many of Yokota's security forces per-

sonnel. Senior Airman Aaron Redd, who's been

to the Middle East in support of the global war on terrorism, said the humanitarian aspect offers a unique perspective and is far more appealing.

"This is the good stuff," he said, "where

you can see the direct result of your efforts. We'll get to see hands-on the good that we want to do. Nobody wants to fight a war.

"I became a cop to be able to help defend and protect people, not to enforce my will on others. I think most of us feel the same way. That's what it's really all about — service before self. We want to help those people out down there. I definitely like this better because you get a sense of satisfaction." Added Barrom: "Our people are much

Added Balloni. Our begape are inducing more interested in doing these type of missions. The help you're providing makes it special. We be bringing supplies like food, blankets and clothes to victims of an unbelievable tragedy and many have been suffering since it happened. The positive feedback you get is very rewarding."

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@pstripes.osd.mil

Fla. lawmakers push to keep 12 carriers

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - Three Florida members of Congress announced legislation Wednesday to mandate that the Navy keep 12 aircraft carriers in its fleet, a move prompted by Pentagon pronosals to decommission the Florida-based USS Kennedy to save

Sens. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Mel Martinez, R-Fla., and Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla., criticized Pentagon officials for considering the proposal, which they say would jeopardize national security, as well as financially dev-

astate northern Florida "We should be wise enough to recognize that at a time of war, our nation needs 12 carriers Martinez said. "We all hope there could be such a time when we don't need this kind of defense,

Members of Congress oppose DOD proposal to decommission USS Kennedy

rather

Navy officials refused to comment on the legislation and budget proposal. Navy Secretary Gordon England spoke to all three lawmakers last week to inform them of the Kennedy's proposed shutdown, which could save about \$1.2 billion.

Nelson said the USS Kitty Hawk, based in Yokosuka, Japan, is scheduled to be decommissioned in 2008 and its replacement, the USS George H.W. Bush, is two years behind schedule, and won't be in service until

Crenshaw said that it's one of the smallest savings in the \$30 billion cut in the Pentagon's 2006 budget proposal, but could have the most impact on military readiness. He also criticized the decision to make the cuts in be-hind-the- scenes budget meet-



reversible decision ... that puts us

at tremendous strategic risk.

"The leadership in the Pentagon is making short-sighted decision

prompted by budget woes," he said. "If you take this carrier out of service, that's an ir-

But Christopher Preble, foreign policy studies director for the Cato Institute and Gulf War Navy veteran, said the usefulness of U.S. car-

riers against terrorists is limited, since the only obvious concentration of terrorists to launch large-scale attacks against was in Afghanistan.

"For them to make the argument that carriers are essential for the war on terror is absurd," he said. "There are things that the carrier can do that no other platform can, but you can say that about most of the U.S. military."

The Kennedy, based at Mayport Naval Station, returned to Florida in December after a six-month mission in the Middle East. The carrier has a crew of more than 3.100, and Crenshaw estimates its presence brings about \$250 million annually into the Jacksonville area.

The 36-year-old carrier underwent \$350 million in repairs last spring and is scheduled to undergo another \$378 million overhaul later this year.

He also pointed to 2003 and 2002 Navy posture statements, which note that "real-world experience and analysis indicate that a carrier force of 15 ships is neces-

Preble said in the past Congress and the White House have overturned similar defense department cuts, but described the legislation as an unusual pre-emptive move.

Navy merges dental clinic with Yokosuka hospital

JIM O'DONNELL/Stars and Strines

Capt. Wayne Lapetoda, left, U.S.

commanding officer, presents the

Naval Dental Center Far East's

dental center command flag to

Capt. Charles Taylor, U.S. Naval

Hospital Yokosuka's commanding

patients would notice no differ-

ence to their service or care after

the integration, saying changes

mostly affect administrative pro-

under consideration, officials found almost 100 administrative

processes in parallel between

medical and dental commands.

should be able to achieve very sig-

nificant savings in manpower and

"By merging," he said, "we

When the integration plan was

officer, during the disestablish-

ment ceremony of the dental

command Thursday.

Woofter said

efficiencies."

BY JIM O'DONNELL Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE. Japan - The Navy, in an effort to increase efficiency, disestablished its seventh dental command at a ceremony Thursday at Yokosuka's Benny Decker Theater. Five more dental commands throughout the Navy will be disestablished by mid-February, according to a Navy official.

U.S. Naval Dental Center Far East officially was disestablished after more than 47 years of service in Japan when the dental clinic's final commanding officer, Capt. Wayne Lapetoda, presented the dental command flag to Cant Charles Taylor, Yokosuka Naval Hospital's commanding officer. The change should have mini-

mal effect on Yokosuka dental patients, officials said. The dental command was inte-

grated into Yokosuka Naval Hospital on Thursday as part of the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine's answer to a challenge from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, said Rear Adm. Dennis Woofter, deputy director for Naval Medicine, who officiated at the ceremony.

"Adm. Clark, when he assumed his office nearly five years ago, challenged all of his commanders ... to reduce their administrative and command-and-control infrastructure to be more efficient with the objective to reduce labor costs," Woofter said.

"This integration initiative is Navy Medicine's response to that challenge. There is a lot of overhead that goes with maintaining separate commands, and the inherent support staff that goes with each of those. By merging them we ought to be able to enjoy some economies of scale and reduce redundant and duplicate

Woofter said he expected most

as the locations for picking up records or making appointments, most people won't be affected by the integration, he said. He does, however, expect integration to affect Naval Medicine's personnel numbers. "If we do it right, and we actual-

ly achieve these efficiencies that are potentially there, it should result in a demand for a smaller labor force." he said. Woofter expects some reductions in civilian, contractor and military numbers but said he could not immediately predict where the cuts would be made.

The integration of Navy dental commands should be invisible as well for most personnel just get-ting into Naval Medicine - but it may affect them later on in their careers

"The folks who stay with the system longer and move into the administrative side," will be expected to have an "understanding of a full spectrum of health care not just medical care or dental care." Woofter said.

Several sailors at Thursday's ceremony said they had come to agree that the integration was a good idea, though most said they were a little skeptical at first. "I feel it's a good idea," said

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessamine Delgado, a dental technician from Atsugi Naval Air Facility. "I just think it's going to take a few steps to get where everyone will feel comfortable.'

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jevon Jones said he believes the integration will open up more career possibilities.

"I think it is a good opportunity for DTs (dental technicians) to get acclimated with the hospital. It's good we are going to become one big command," said the dental technician from Yokosuka.

E-mail Jim O'Donnell at: odonnellj@pstripes.osd.mil

Walking down the Kitty Hawk



Atop the USS Kitty Hawk's flight deck, air department personnel partici-

pate in a foreign-object debris walk-down Monday. FOD walk-downs are required before flight operations to clear the area of any loose matter that could foul jet intakes or become an airborne hazard.



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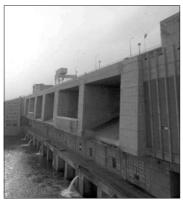
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The power-generating turbines at the base of Haditha Dam, left, provide power for around one-third of Iraq. The 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, above, uses the dam structure as its living guarters and base.

For Marines, life in dam like being at sea

A constant hum, plenty of stairs, lots of water — but no movement

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO Stars and Stripes

HADITHA, Iraq he Marines say it's like living in the secret lair of a James Bond villain at least one of the villains from the slightly dated Sean Connery-Roger Moore era.

Perched at the southern end of Lake Qadisiyah in Iraq's Al Anbar province, along the Euphrates River, the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment occupies what has to be the most distinct hase camp in Irag: a hydroelectric dam

The base isn't beside the dam, or near the dam. It's inside the massive concrete structure. Office spaces and long concrete hallways have been converted to living areas, a chow hall and weight rooms

Giant concrete rooms with transformers, high-voltage wires and in-

decinherable machines festooned with dials and knobs are used as phone centers, a makeshift gym and a chanel.

At the same time, the Marines say, the dam is fully operational and provides power to up to one-third of Irag's 25 million peo-

"It's almost exactly like being on a ship. You've got all the stairwells, there's the constant hum-ming from the turbines, the water all around," said Staff Sgt. Th Watson, 38, from Warner Robins,

The stairwell, or "ladderwell" in Marine-speak, is the most noted feature of the Marines' temporary The dam has 11 above ground and none of the elevators works. Each level has ceilings of different heights, so sometimes going from one floor to another involves three to four flights

For exercise, the Marines run the stairwells and jog along the top of the dam "It's definitely a workout," said

1st Lt. James Crabtree. "The spaces get wider as you get toward the base of the dam. There are three levels below ground, but they're

Deep in the bowels of the structure, the tops of the power turbines are visible in a cavernous space bounded on one side by a wall of pointed metal panels. At the far end of the room, a series of metal symbols, reminiscent of Soviet worker propaganda, extol the virtues of labor and the power provided by the dam.

"I had some friends in the unit that occupied the dam before we did." Crabtree said, walking past the turbines. "They described it to me, but until I got here, I couldn't really picture it

Small signs in the stairwell landings list the actions Marines should take at several levels of alert, from a possible failure of the dam to a terrorist attack.

According to the Iraqi power plant workers still on duty, the facilities at the dam used to be a resort hotel for honeymooners under the Saddam Hussein regime. A quick look at the rooms used as living quarters for the Marines backs that up - many have large balconies overlooking the spillways and the Euphrates, which leads downstream a few miles to the city of Haditha.

The balconies are separated from the rooms by large windows and double doors made of glass. The windows and doors have now been reinforced and taped over so they don't shatter in case of a rocket or mortar attack.

Marines say the area around the dam gets hit a few times a week by incoming rounds. At around p.m. Tuesday, a pair of mortar rounds slammed into the ground near the dam. The explosions rattled fixtures and echoed through the cement halls. Marines in the chow hall barely paused, looking up from their T-rations to see if any more rounds were on their

"This is pretty much the safest place in Iraq if you're going to get mortared," Watson said.

The Marines also share the facility with a company-size contingent of Azerbaijani soldiers, who provide perimeter security for the base. The Marines admit the Azerbaijanis have it pretty rough. They're on 18-month tours in Iraq and have no mail or telephone links to home

acks for the Marines as well. Even though it was built just 20 years ago, much of the facility is crumbling. The plumbing doesn't work, so Marines have to use nor table toilets and showers on either

the first or seventh levels. Mice are also a problem. In offices and living quarters throughout the dam, Marines have set up mousetraps and have made a sport of figuring out the best bait to lure the rodents. Peanut butter inst gets licked off without triggering the trap. The old standby cheese — works best, if you can

Paradoxically, the dam experiences occasional power outages. The turbines shut down the lights flicker and everything goes black. It's the only time the constant hum

get your hands on it.

And there's the odor. Particularly on the lower levels of the dam, a distinct, pungent sulphur smell permeates the air. At times, it creeps up the stairwells all the way to the top levels.

causes the smell. But some have a sardonic guess: "We're living right on top of the gates of hell, they say.

Yokota Baptist Church Pastor Warren Webster 日本語訳もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese

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www.yokotabaptistchurch.org

Warning from Army promts end to war blog which Army regulations were

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - A military doctor whose Web site chronicled the bloody aftermath of the suicide bombing of a dining tent in Iraq has shut down the site after being told his postings violated Army regulation

In an e-mail from Iraq on Tuesday. Mai. Michael Cohen, a doctor with the 67th Combat Support Hospital unit, said he received a written warning but was not told being violated. A short notice replaced the ac-

count on Cohen's site, www.67cshdocs.com.

"Levels above me have ordered, yes ORDERED, me to shut down this website. They cite that the information contained in these pages violates several Army Regulations, I certainly disagree with this," it read.

On his Web log, Cohen had described the chaotic scene after the Dec. 21 mess hall bombing in which 22 people died He reported that eventually

there were more wounded than emergency room beds. Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a spokes

man for coalition forces in Iraq, said he could not confirm the investigation into Cohen's blog. He said the Pentagon allows

blogs that do not disrupt unit discipline, make statements on behalf of commanders or the Army, or reveal details that could aid at-

Iraq extends state of emergency 30 days

Roadside bomb kills 7 soldiers

BY BASSEM MROUE The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - A state of emergency, originally announced two months ago, was extended for 30 days throughout the country except for the Kurdish-run areas north of the country, an Iraqi government statement said. The decree includes a nighttime curfew and gives the government additional power to make arrests and launch operations.

"We expect some escalation [of attacks1 here and there" ahead of Jan. 30 elections, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said. "This is a precaution to protect the Iraqi people as well as the elec-

A roadside bomb killed seven U.S. soldiers when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in northwest Baghdad, the U.S. military said Friday.

The soldiers were on patrol in northwest Baghdad on Thursday evening when their Bradley fighting vehicle hit a roadside bomb, the military said in a statement. Everyone inside the Bradley was killed

The bodies of 18 young Iraqi Shiites killed last month while seeking work at a U.S. base have



An Iraqi woman walks past a poster that says "no for dictatorship, yes for the Iraqi unity" and contains an image of the Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani on Thursday in Baghdad. The country's elections are still scheduled for Jan. 30.

been found in a field near Mosul, police said Thursday, as the Iraqi government extended a state of emergency for a month because of violence ahead of landmark elections

Police said the insurgents shot the 18 men, who ranged in age from 14 to 20, execution style on Dec. 8 after stopping their two minibuses about 30 miles west of the volatile city, 225 miles north of Baghdad.

Their hands were tied behind

their backs and each was shot in the head, police said. All the men were Shiite Muslims from Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Kadhimiya who had been hired by an Iraqi contractor to work at a U.S. base in Mosul. The bodies were discovered Wednesday.

A second car bomber killed five Iraqi policemen in Baqouba on Wednesday.

In a statement posted on a Web site Thursday, the al-Oaida in Irag, led by Jordanian terrorist

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Wednesday, at least 1,338 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,053 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally. The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,200 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 944 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military: ■ A soldier was killed Tuesday when a patrol was attacked in Tal Afar in northern Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the Defense Department: Army Spc. Craig L. Nelson, 21, Bossier City, La.; died Dec. 29 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., of injuries sustained Dec. 16 when an explosive detonated near his military vehicle in Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, Shreveport, La.

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for both the Hillah and the Bagouba attacks. The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for al-Zarqawi's capture - the same amount as

for Osama bin Laden. In an execution-style incident. the bodies of three Jordanian truck drivers shot in the head

were discovered on the outskirts of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Bagh-dad, an AP photographer at the scene said Thursday.

Also, a Marine belonging to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Thursday while conducting operations in the Al Anbar province in western

Military looks into abuse

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Investigators will look into allegations of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo Bay de scribed in recently released FBI documents, authorities said, as a new batch of FBI memos was re-

The U.S. Southern Command in Miami assigned Army Brig. Gen. John T. Furlow to lead the investigation, which could begin as early as this week. The military maintains that most incidents detailed in the FRI memos occurred in 2002 when the prison was just opening, and that some of the interrogation techniques labeled as "aggressive" are no long-

published last Documents month show FBI agents warned the government about abuse and mistreatment when the first prisoners arrived, more than a year before a scandal at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. One letter, written by a senior U.S. Justice Department official, suggested the Pentagon failed to act on the FBI com-

"It will be fully investigated," Guantanamo's commanding Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood said Wednesday, adding that recent articles about allegations have skewed the public's understanding about the mission and the troops' commitment to strict stan-

He said the independent military team was necessary to find and interview people who had left the remote outpost and were no longer under his command.

Closing arguments delayed in alleged drowning

BY ANGELA K. BROWN

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas - Closing arguments were delayed Thurs day in the military trial of a soldier accused in an Iraqi civilian's drowning death because the jury of Army officers said they wanted to hear from more witnesses.

Jurors said they wanted to hear from witnesses who weren't called to testify in the case, including Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins. He's being tried on charges of involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators. He faces a sentence ranging from

nothing to 26 years if convicted. The judge, Col. Gregory Gross, said he would research the jurors' request and resume arguments later in the day. Gross rejected the jury's request for documents from previous court hearings in the case and other witness statements. In a court-martial, jurors are allowed to submit questions for witnesses

Jumps also wanted to hear from Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville, but the judge said that would not happen. Saville is to be tried in March on the same charges as Perkins — as well as a conspiracy charge. Saville faces a maximum sentence of 29 years in prison.

An Iraqi civilian testified Wednesday that he and his cousin were detained while driving back to Samarra with a delivery of

plumbing supplies, then forced at gunpoint into the cold Tigris River as U.S. soldiers laughed.

Marwan Fadel Hassoun said he tried to save his 19-year-old cousin by grabbing his hand, but the powerful current swept Zaidoun Fadel Hassoun away, Marwan said the body was found in the river nearly two weeks later.

Three soldiers called by the defense testified Wednesday that were looking through night-vision equipment that night and saw two Iragis on the river bank after the incident.

Under cross-examination, two of the soldiers said they did not reveal that information until last summer because Army investigators, convinced that an Iraqi had

died, had intimidated them



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9:30 A.M. 6:30 P.M. school-6th grade

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Dr. C.L. Callahan, Pastor john316@iea.att.ne.jp

IN THE WORLD

Summit tackles health issues for survivors

Leaders fear tsunami death toll could double if refugees' basic needs aren't met

BY MICHAEL C. CORDE The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Amid warnings that the anticipated 150.000 death toll from the Asian tsunami disaster could jump sharply without fresh aid, world leaders staggered by the calamity sought Thursday to figure out the best way to help victims - and to prevent such a catastrophe from happening again.

As donors held an emergency summit in Indonesia, relief workers scrambled to move aid to areas of Sumatra, the Indonesian island hit hardest by the massive earthquake and giant waves that crashed ashore Dec. 26. Volunteers hurled sacks of rice and instant noodles into trucks en route to the hungry even as U.S. helicopters buzzed overhead on their way to deliver supplies to Sumatra's isolated communities.

A radical Islamic group set up a relief camp in Sumatra, raising fears of agitation against U.S. and Australian military teams gear-ing up to assist victims. The militants, once headed by an al-Qaida linked terror chief and infamous for attacking the Christian minority on Indonesia's far-flung islands, insisted they would not interfere with foreign troops - as long as they kept strictly to humanitarian operations South Korean relief workers

helping victims of Asia's tsunami disaster may become targets of terror attacks, the government warned Thursday

South Korea sent a "request to related countries" to take security measures for the aid workers, said Lee Kyu-hyung, a spokesman of Seoul's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

He did not elaborate, and it was not immediately clear whether South Koreans were more at risk than aid workers from other coun-

World leaders conferred in Jakarta about how to transform one of the largest aid packages ever assembled - nearly \$4 billion in pledges - into food for the hungry and shelter for the homeless. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged nations to immediately come forward with the billions they've promised and to break with past practices of promising much and delivering little.

"The disaster was so brutal, so quick, and so far-reaching, that we are still struggling to compre-hend it," Annan said. "We will never know the exact magnitude of how many men, women and children perished on 26 Decem-

Australia leads the world with a total aid pledge of \$810 million followed by Japan and the United

President Bush contributed \$10,000 from his personal funds to the relief effort, his snokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said America would take a wait-and-see attitude before pledging more cash to tsunami re-

"These are not insignificant numbers," Powell told reporters. The World Health Organization said that if basic needs - particularly access to safe drinking water — were not restored by the end of this week, infectious diseaswere not restored by the



Tsunami victims clean the destroyed area around their old homes at the eastern coastal village of Kattankudi, near Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, on Thursday. Getting aid to millions of tsunami victims is a race against time, and nations must immediately come forward with the money they pledged, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday during an emergency summit held in Jakarta. Indonesia. For the moment, though, the

es could kill tens of thousands The confirmed death toll in the reion stands at 140,000, and senior U.N. officials have predicted it will reach 150,000.

Epidemics could claim a far higher number. We now estimate that as many as 150,000 people are at extreme risk if a major disease outbreak in WHO Director-General Dr. Lee

the affected areas occurs.

threat of an outbreak of waterborne disease is being held in check by medical aid flooding into the region, U.N. officials said. While there are cases of diarrhea, respiratory and skin diseases and mental trauma, there have been no major outbreaks of disease in the devastated Aceh region, the U.N. health agency said Thurs-

But officials are concerned that unless this aid is sustained, the system could collapse. Rushing water purification tablets to survivors and building rudimentary toilets remain the focus of efforts to fend off deadly disease outbreaks in devastated communities.

The U.N. health organization is warning that hygiene in the hundreds of refugee camps that have sprung up around the region is the biggest disease concern.

Orthodox Christians prepare for Christmas

By MIKE ECKEL The Associated Press

MOSCOW - The head of Russia's Orthodox Church offered blessings and prayers on the eve of the Christmas Thursday, noting in his traditional holiday greetings that 2004 was a difficult year for Russia.

Patriarch Alexy II also addressed Christians worldwide and people of other faiths, saying "Let us work together for the sake of peace and the prosperity of our peoples.'

The patriarch made reference in his greetings to the string of terrorist attacks that struck Russia in August and September, in cluding the Sept. 1-3 hostage-taking at the school in Beslan in which more than 340 people died, nearly half of them children.

"Flouting everything that is holy in their impious madness, terrorists raised their hands against children. The deaths of innocent victims has become our common grief and filled our hearts with pain and sorrow," he said.

"But at the same time, the horrible trage dy has shown that moral ideals are alive in the people: facing death, many people manifested high examples of sacrificial love for their neighbors, laving down their lives for their friends, as the Holy Scripture says," the patriarch said.

Christmas falls on Jan. 7 for Orthodox

Christians in the Holy Land, Russia and other Eastern Orthodox churches that use the old Julian calendar instead of the 16th century Gregorian calendar adopted by Catholics and Protestants and commonly used in secular life around the world.

Other Orthodox Christians celebrated the holiday on Dec. 25, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew — the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox — and the church in Greece and the Americas.

The patriarch met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin also Thursday, where he received well wishes from the Russian leader. Putin spoke at length about the humanitarian aid and rescue efforts Russia has provided to Asian countries devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"I want to again wish you a Merry Christmas, happiness and health to you and all the Orthodox Christians, to all the people who will be observing this holy holiday. Putin told the patriarch.

Putin was scheduled to travel to Tver, about 100 miles northwest of Moscow, later Thursday for holiday services.

State-run television scheduled a live broadcast of midnight-til-dawn mass from the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a massive church near the Kremlin that was destroyed by Stalin and rebuilt with a golden dome several year ago.



The head of Russia's Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexy II, and President Vladimi Putin meet Thursday on the eve of the Orthodox Christmas at the Kremlin. The patriarch received good wishes from Putin.

The Russian Orthodox Church, which was all but banned during the Soviet Union, has experienced a major resurgence since the 1991, with an estimated two-thirds of Russia's 144 million people believed to be observant.

Mandela's son dies at 54

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -Former President Nelson Mandela announced Thursday that his eldest son died Thursday of AIDS-related complications. saying the only way to fight the disease's stigma was to speak openly about it. Makgatho Mandela, an attorney, was 54.

'Let us give publicity to HIV/AIDS and not hide it, because the only way of making it appear to be a normal illness, just like [tuberculosis], like cancer, is always to come out and say somebody has died because of HIV," Mandela said. More than 5 million of South Africa's 45

million people are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Canada mulls new drug rule

TORONTO - Internet sales of prescription drugs to U.S. consumers could be banned by Canada if a proposal being drafted by health officials is approved, changes that would essentially kill a \$700 million industry that has become increasingly popular with underingured patients in search of cheaper medicine.

The issue has become touchy politically for President Bush, whose administration has argued that reimporting U.S.-made drugs from Canada would put consumers at risk because U.S. regulators could not guarantee their safety.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Justice nominee criticized over torture policies

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON general nominee Alberto Gonza les drew scorching criticism from



cies on the treatment of terror sus-pects. He repudiated torture tactics and vowed at contentious confir-

mation hearing to abide by international treaties on prisoner

"I will no longer represent only the White House. I will represent the United States of America and its people. I understand the difference between the two roles," Pres-ident Bush's counsel told the Sen-

ate Judiciary Committee His assurances did little to placate Democrats.

"America's troops and citizens are at greater risk" because of administration policies that are "tantamount to torture," said Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the panel's top Democrat.
Sen. Edward M. Kennedy,

D-Mass., told Gonzales that policies he supported or helped formulate "have been used by the administration, the military and the CIA to justify torture and Geneva Convention violations by military and civilian personnel."

Despite the Democratic fireworks. Gonzales' nomination was widely expected to be confirmed by the GOP-led Senate. Even his detractors praised rags-to-riches story the of the Texas-raised son of Mexican im-

ents of attorney general nominee Alberto Gonzales appear at a Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Thursday.

The road you traveled....all the way to the White House is a tribute to you and your family,"

Gonzales, 49, seated by himself at the witness table, answered pointed questions in a calm, even voice. His wife, three sons, moth er-in-law and a brother sat behind him in the first row of the au-

Refore Gonzales' confirmation earing got under way, the White House refused to provide sena tors additional documents on his role in the decision to allow aggressive interrogations of terror ism detainees, adding to the administration's confrontation with congressional Democrats over the now-repudiated policies.

David Leitch, the White House's deputy counsel, told committee Democrats in a letter released Thursday that the administration had already turned over all of the documents it plans to.

Asked about the torture scandal at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, Gonzales said he was "sickened and outraged by those photos." But he declined to give a legal opinion on the alleged abuses, suggesting he didn't want to prejudice a possible criminal case if he becomes attorney general.

USDA nominee OK'd

WASHINGTON - A Senate Agriculture Committee majority on Thursday approved the nomina-tion of Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns as the nation's 28th agricul-

ture secretary.

Johanns is first of President Bush's second-term nominees to clear a Senate committee.

Johanns will resign as governor upon confirmation

Education nominee talks

WASHINGTON House domestic policy chief Margaret Spellings, who helped set the national agenda for schools, began the task Thursday of defining how she would lead them.

Spellings, nominated by President Bush to be the country's eighth education secretary, went before the Senate education committee Thursday. The committee unanimously recommended Senate confirmation, which is expected soon.

Nominee eyes deficit

WASHINGTON — U.S. Commerce Secretary nominee Carlos M. Gutierrez is promising to aggressively fight the unfair trade practices of foreign nations and to speed up the government's handling of individual cases. America's annual trade deficit is expected to top \$600 billion. American companies have lost 2.7 million jobs over the past four years.

Conviction overturned for mother found guilty of drowning her 5 kids

The Associated Press

HOUSTON - Andrea Yates' capital murder con victions for drowning her children were overturned Thursday by an appeals court, which ruled that a prosecution witness' erroneous testimony about a nonexistent TV episode could have been crucial.

Yates' lawyers had argued at a hearing last month before a three-judge panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston that psychiatrist Park Dietz was wrong when he mentioned an episode of the TV "Law & Order" involving a woman found inno cent by reason of insanity for drowning her chil-After jurors found Yates guilty, attorneys in the

case and jurors learned no such episode existed. "We conclude that there is a reasonable likelihood

that Dr. Dietz's false testimony could have affected the judgment of the jury," the court ruled. "We fur-ther conclude that Dr. Dietz's false testimony affected the substantial rights of appellant."

The appellate ruling returns the case for a new trial, although prosecutors said they hoped instead to successfully appeal Thursday's ruling. "We fully intend to pursue a motion for a rehear

ing," said Harris County Assistant District Attorney Alan Curry, who argued the case before the anneals court. "Barring that, we'll continue to appeal to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. We still believe we have a good shot to prevail in appeal.'

Jurors in 2002 sentenced Yates to life in prison in the 2001 deaths of three of her children. She was not tried in the deaths of the other two.

The defense's appeal cited 19 errors from her trial, but the appeals court said since the false testimony issue reversed the conviction, it was not ruling on the other matters. Among other things, Yates attorneys had claimed the Texas insanity standard is unconstitutional.

"We agree that this case does not involve the state's knowing use of perjured testimony," the appeals court said in its ruling



Defense attorney George Parnham, who represen ed Andrea Yates during her trial, smiles as he talks about the overturned conviction in her case on Thursday in Houston.

A woman answering the telephone at Dietz's Newport Beach, Calif., office said Thursday there was no immediate comment from him or his firm. He had testified the episode aired shortly before the drownings, and other testimony during the trial had indi-cated that Yates watched the series.

A wet and bedraggled Yates called police to her home on June 20, 2001, and showed them the bodies of her five children: Noah, 7; John, 5; Paul, 3; Luke, 2; and 6-month-old Mary. She had called them into the bathroom and drowned them one by one.

According to testimony, Yates was overwhelmed by motherhood, considered herself a bad mother, and had attempted suicide and been hospitalized for depression.

Prosecutors acknowledged she was mentally ill but argued that she knew right from wrong and was thus not legally insane.

Dietz is a nationally known expert who also took part in such high profile cases as those of Susan Smith, convicted of killing her two children in a South Carolina lake; serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer; and "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski.

Atheist who challenged pledge sues again with other parents

44I want this

[case] decided

on its merits.

BY DAVID KRAVETS The Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO - An athe-

ist who sued because he did not want his young daughter exposed to the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance has filed another lawsuit - this time with other parents.

Michael Newdow won his case more than two years ago before a

federal appeals court, which said it was an unconstitutional blending of church and state for public school students to pledge to God.

In June, however, the Supreme Court dismissed the case, saying Newdow could not lawfully sue

because he did not have custody of his elementary school-aged daughter and because the girl's mother objected to the lawsuit.

In the latest challenge filed Monday in Sacramento federal court, eight co-plaintiffs have ioined the suit, and all are custodial parents or the children themselves, Newdow said.

The plaintiffs' names have been withheld from the lawsuit. Newdow had promised to refile

when the Supreme Court dismissed his case this summer.

"I want this decided on its mer its," said Newdow, a doctor and a lawyer, who again is the attorney in the latest pledge case.

Although the Supreme Court sidestepped the broader question of separation of church and state when it tossed the case, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote separately that the pledge as recited by schoolchildren does not violate the Constitution. Justices Sandra Day O'Connor

and Clarence Thomas agreed

with him A fourth justice Antonin Scalia, removed himself from the case after making off-the-bench remarks that

Michael Newdow Attorney for latest seemed to telegraph his Pledge of Allegiance case view that the pledge is

constitutional.

Rehnquist wrote that the phrase "one nation under God" is more about ceremony and history than about religion. He likened the phrase to the motto "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency, and to the call that onens each session of the high court itself: "God save this honorable court."

Vickram Amar, a constitutional scholar at Hastings College of the Law, said that "this case starts with a 0-4 handicap from the Supreme Court's point of view. Lower court judges are not going to be oblivious to that" when they consider the issue

No court date has been set.



Ron Owen of Glidden, Iowa, uses a snowblower to clear a sidewalk near his home on Thursday, Glidden received about 8.5-inches of snow from the slow-moving storm crossing the United States. The storm closed schools, slowed traffic but otherwise created few problems.

Midwest storm inches east

BY NATHANIEL HERNANDEZ

The Associated Pres. CHICAGO - A deadly storm

carrying freezing rain and snow marched across the Great Lakes and into New England on Thursday, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands, setting loose barges and forcing snowplows into round-the-clock duty.

The snow and ice combined with fears of flooding to close hundreds of schools, and high water stranded about 10 families in Ohio.

Almost 10 inches of snow fell on O'Hare International Airport. canceling 300 flights Thursday, on top of the 1,000 flights that were grounded a day earlier, said Kristen Cabanban, spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Aviation

Roads turned icv for the morning commute, and winter storm warnings stretched from Wisconsin to the East Coast

Omaha, Neb., had 14 inches of snow, and more than a foot covered parts of southern Wisconsin.

'My back is a little sore," Bob Metzger said after shoveling the snow outside his Badger Brothers Coffee shop in Platteville, Wis.

The snow extended Thursday to the East Coast. Nearly 6 inches had fallen in Wantage, N.J., by morning. In western New York, a foot of snow fell in Jamestown. and most schools in the state's largely rural southwestern corner were closed.

In Connecticut, the snow com bined with freezing rain, leading to a rash of tractor-trailer accidents that blocked traffic on interstates during the Thursday morning commute.

The storm came with bone-chilling cold in some areas. with temperatures falling to 36 below zero in Big Fork, Minn., and 22 below zero in Valentine, Neb

The ice downed power lines around the region. Among outages were 179,000 homes and businesses in Ohio, more than 100,000 in Indiana and nearly 100,000 in

Kansas Warming temperatures from Illinois into southern Michigan and Pennsylvania were changing freezing rain into showers Thursday,

and officials warned of flooding. In West Virginia, three bridges in the Wheeling area were shut down Thursday after eight barges broke loose on the Ohio River.

The river was expected to rise to more than 6 feet above the flood stage by Friday morning.

Since beginning its eastward trek earlier this week, the storm has killed at least four people in traffic accidents, one each in Colorado. Nebraska. South Dakota and Indiana. Icy roads also may have been a factor in accidents that killed two in Michigan and at least nine in Oklahoma.

Ohio vote count still under fire

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A small group of Democrats agreed Thursday to force House and Senate debates on Election Day problems in Ohio before letting the U.S. Congress certify President Bush's win over Sen. John Kerry in November

While Bush's victory is not in jeopardy, the Democratic challenge would legally compel Con-gress to interrupt tallying the Electoral College vote, which was scheduled to begin on Thursday. It would be only the second time

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Officials

with airline pilots unions say the

government should be doing

more to alert them to incidents in-

volving lasers and to provide guid-

ance about how best to protect

themselves against beams that

involve lasers being pointed at air-

craft cockpits as they approached

At least eight recent incidents

can blind.

since 1877 that the House and Senate were forced into separate meetings to consider electoral votes

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California, signed a challenge mounted by House Democrats to Ohio's 20 electoral votes, which put Bush over the top. By law, a protest signed by members of the House and Senate requires both chambers to meet separately for up to two hours to consider it.

"I have concluded that objecting to the electoral votes from Ohio is the only immediate way to

Pilots call for more info on laser risks

Denis Breslin, an American Air

lines captain, said pilots learned

about the incidents only through

the news media. He said the gov-

ernment should have a way to

alert pilots so they can take pre-

"Pilots want a generalized warning and training. I think that's not too much to ask," said

Breslin, first vice president of the

cautions.

all the aircraft landed safely.

bring these issues to light by allowing you to have a two-hour de-bate to let the American people know the facts surrounding Ohio's election," Boxer wrote in a letter to Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a leader of the Democratic effort.

action seems certain leave Bush's victory intact because both Republican-controlled chambers would have to uphold the objection for Ohio's votes to be invalidated. Supporters of the drive said that rather than changing the election outcome, their hope was to shine a spotlight on the Ohio voting problems.

Federal Aviation Administra-

tion spokeswoman Laura Brown

said the agency is very concerned

about the safety of pilots, passen-

gers and the rest of the flight

An FAA study released in June

found that most pilots subjected

to a laser flash in a simulator re-

ported temporary visual impair-

ment and brief distraction



Wreckage from two trains involved in a crash are shown on Thursday, ear downtown Graniteville, S.C.

Freight train crashes in S.C.

Wreck kills 2: chlorine gas contaminates area

The Associated Press

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. - A Norfolk Southern freight train carrving chlorine gas struck parked train early Thursday, killing two people and injuring at least 170 others, authorities said.

Decontamination sites were treating people exposed to fumes. Most of the injured were treated for respiratory ailments and re-leased, authorities said.

The wreck happened about 2:30 a.m. at an Avondale Mills fa-cility in this textile town near the Georgia line. Thirteen cars derailed

National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi said the agency will send investigators to the scene later

Gov Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency for the countv. activating the state emergency operations center and making

state resources available.

Norfolk Southern previously said two crew members on the moving train had inhaled chlorine, and were taken to a hospital Another of the injured people was a woman whose car had been hit by a tree felled by one of the train cars. Her condition was unavail-

No one was on the parked train, according to Norfolk Southern spokesman Robin Chapman.

Three of the 42 cars on the moving train were carrying chlorine, he said, but he didn't know how many of the cars were damaged. Chlorine gas can damage the throat, nose and eyes and can be

Those who were exposed were told to report to decontamination units at two schools. Others in the area were told to stay inside their

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SEATTLE - Seattle has been named the fittest city in the United States in the February issue of Men's Fitness magazine, leaping past the buff competition from Honolulu, Colorado Springs, San

Francisco and Denver. Exercising faithfully and shunning fast food boosted Seattle to the top from No. 6 last year, Men's Fitness Editor in Chief Neal Boulton said

"Eighty-five percent of Seattle residents get some exercise every month, and that's a really significant thing," Boulton said.

The city's jittery love affair

with espresso might fuel some of that activity, he noted: "There's not only a lot of it, it's pretty darn strong

In its nonscientific Seventh Annual Fattest and Fittest Cities Report, the magazine compares 50 cities by weighing 14 factors, in-cluding fast food restaurants per capita, TV watching, air quality

In Seattle, for example, the magazine says sporting goods stores and gyms outnumber fast

food joints — a key statistic. Houston was named the fattest city for the fourth time in five

The fittest

- . Colorado Springs, Colo. 4. San Francisco
- Denver Portland, Ore.

- Portland, Ore.
 Sacramento, Calif.
 Tucson, Ariz.
 San Diego
 O. Albuquerque, N.M.
 Boston
 Z. Virginia Beach, Va.
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 Fresno, Calif.
 Miwaukee, Wis.
 O Omaha Neb.

- Omaha, Neb.
 San Jose, Calif.
 Jacksonville, Fla.
 Austin, Texas
 Oakland, Calif.
- Los Angeles
- on, D.C
- 22. Arlington, Text 23. Washington, D 24. Cleveland 25. Nashville-Davidson, Tenn.

years, followed by Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis and Chicago Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels praised the city's many walking trails and called the fitness of his fellow residents "inspirational."

Nickels said he made a New Year's resolution to get in better shape by walking with his wife and working out at a gym near

City Hall.

The fattest

- 3. Detroit 4. Memphis, Tenn. 5. Chicago 6. Dallas

- 7. New Orleans 8. New York 9. Las Vegas 10. San Antonio

- 12. Phoenix 13. Indianapolis 14. Fort Worth, Texas 15. Mesa, Ariz.

- 13. Mesa, Ariz. 16. Columbus, Ohio 17. Wichita, Kan. 18. Kansas City, Mo. 19. Miami
- 20. Long Beach, Calif. 21. Oklahoma City, Okla. 22. Tulsa, Okla. 23. Atlanta 24. Charlotte, N.C.

- 25. Baltimore

"It's pretty hard to go more than a few blocks without seeing a gym," Nickels said.

Seattle's claim to the fitness crown makes sense to Doug Sherry and his wheaten terrier, Bing, who walk the three-mile path around Seattle's Green Lake every day, rain or shine.

"Everyone I know does some-



A cyclist rides Wednesday in view of the Space Needle and downtown Seattle, named the fittest city in the United States in the February issue of Men's Fitness magazine.

thing," explained Sherry, 35 who also hits the gym several times a week. "There's lots of good terrain to walk and bike and hike. You're close to the water, you're close to the moun-

His advice for those seeking to emulate Seattle's healthy ways?
"Eniov the outdoors," Sherry "Enjoy the outdoors," said. "And get a dog."

Warning: Labels may tickle vour funny bone

BY DAVID N. GOODMAN The Associated Press

DETROIT — The sign on the toilet brush says it best: "Do not use for personal hygiene."

That admonition was the winner of an anti-lawsuit group's annual contest for the wackiest consumer warning label of the year.

The sponsor, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, says the goal is "to reveal how lawsuits, and concern about lawsuits, have created a need for common sense warnings on products."

The \$500 first prize went to Ed Gyetvai, of Oldcastle, Ontario, who submitted the toilet-brush label. A \$250 second prize went to Matt Johnson, of Naperville, Ill., for a label on a children's scooter that said, "This product moves when used."

A \$100 third prize went to Ann Marie Taylor, of Camden, S.C., who submitted a warning from a digital thermometer that said. "Once used rectally, the thermometer should not be used orally." "There are many cases of warn-

ing labels saving lives," Joanne Doroshow, executive director of the Center for Justice and Democracy in New York.

Extra copies of gene help protect some from AIDS

WASHINGTON - Having extra copies of a gene that pro duces a blocking protein helps protect people from AIDS, a finding that may explain why some people are more susceptible to the disease than others, a new study reports.

Researchers wondering why people from the same ancestry varied in their ability to resist HIV and AIDS found differences in the number of copies of the gene that encodes CCL3L1, a protein that blocks HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Researchers hope the finding, reported in Thursday's online issue of the journal Science, help them identify people who have a higher or lower susceptibility to the disease.

"Individual risk of acquiring HIV and experiencing rapid disease progression is not uniform within populations," said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of National Institute of Allergy and Infections Disease, which funded the study

"This important study identifies genetic factors of particular groups that either mitigate or enhance one's susceptibility to infection and disease onset." Fauci said in a statement.

The study looked at more than

4.300 blood samples from people of different ancestral origins to determine the average number of CCL3L1 gene copies in each

The researchers reported that, for example, HIV-negative African-American adults had an average of four CCL3L1 copies, while HIV-negative Europeanand Hispanic-American adults averaged two and three copies

They said this does not mean that one group is more prone to AIDS than another, only that people with fewer copies than their population's average were more susceptible to HIV infection while those with more than average copies were less prone to infection

Senior authors of the study were Dr. Sunil K. Ahuja of the University of Texas Health Science Center and the Veterans Administration Center for AIDS and HIV-1 Infection in San Antonio and Dr. Matthew J. Dolan of the Air Force's Wilford Hall Medical Center and Brooks City-Base in San Antonio

In addition to NIAID the research was supported by National Institute of Mental Health, the Veterans Administration Center for AIDS and HIV-1 Infection. the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

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FACES

Ashlee Simpson booed at Orange Bowl

Ashlee Simpson's Orange Bowl halftime performance was a lemon, according to the 72,000-plus Miami crowd. The 20-year-old singer received a discernible chorus of boos follow-

ing a performance of her song "La La."

'You make me wanna scream," she sang before the audience jeered.

Simpson was among a trio of halftime performers Tuesday night in a game that saw Southern California overwhelm Oklahoma 55-19. The camera cut away from her face as the booing began.

The negative vocal reaction came months after Simpson's performance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which revealed she used background vocal tracks. The mishap was later attributed to

acid reflux disease. However, the Orange Bowl crowd did have a reason to cheer. The Walt Disney Co. gave a theme park ticket to every fan. The giveaway, a promotion that could cost as much as \$4.3 million if all the tickets are used, is in honor of the



50th anniversary of its Disneyland park in California. Dick Clark coming along after stroke

A month after his stroke, Dick Clark remains hospitalized in good spirits while working with rehabilitation specialists

The "American Bandstand" icon watched Regis Philhin host "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin" Eve 2005" from his hospital bed and said "he enjoyed the show and thought Regis did a wonderful-

ly professional job," Clark publicist Paul Shefrin

said Wednesday. As promised, Clark kissed his wife, Kari. at midnight, the spokesman added.
Clark, 75, was hospitalized at an undisclosed

Burbank, Calif., hospital on Dec. 6 after suffering a mild stroke. Shefrin wouldn't disclose specifics. There was no word on when Clark would go home. During the ABC-TV New Year's Eve show, fans held up "Get Well Dick" signs. Celebrities, in-

cluding Madonna, John Travolta, Janet Jackson and others, were shown on videotape expressing best wishes.

Price still right for Bob Barker

Bob Barker has agreed to continue as host of "The Price Is Right" for a record 34th season, CBS announced.

"I was considering retiring this year and going into bodybuilding with the thought in mind of becoming governor of California." the 81-year-old Emmy-winning game-show host joked

"But I decided to instead stay with the body I have and the job I

Barbara Bloom, senior vice president, daytime programs, said Barker and "The Price Is Right" are cornerstones of CBS daytime. "We're thrilled that Bob has agreed to continue for another year, no

doubt delighting his legions of fans across the country," Bloom said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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A calculated 🕶 risk-taker

Michael Weatherly gave up the safety net of college to pursue career as an actor

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

HOLLYWOOD - When actor Michael Weatherly was 12 years old, his parents sent him away to camp called "Camp Challenge." His mother wanted to toughen him up, he says. "It was a three-week duration and I had to canoe.

fight, build my own ax, learn to read a topographic map, compass and we had something called '24-hour survival' where they left us in the woods alone for 24 hours and you had to find food, build a lean-to. That changed

me. It either changed me or it broke me," he says. "But when I showed up [at camp] I was wearing a white turtleneck and white bell-bottoms. And I was from Connecticut and playing tennis at the country club. When I came back I was wearing hiking boots and blue jeans and I'd spent some time with some interest-

It turns out it was a profitable move in more ways than one Now as the wiseacre Tony Di-Nozzo on CBS' "NCIS." Weatherly, 36, has to com bine those skills along with his impish sense of humor and considerable acting talent.

ing people," he says.

a federal agent but he has very little regard for towing the line of political correctness or anything like that," he says.

"I love playing somebody who was kind of a rebel without a cause," says Weatherly. Weatherly's

8-year-old August, is with him today at this morning breakfast. The two plan secret outing after Weatherly is done, and it's clear August enjoys his father's company, even if it does mean sitting still in a restaurant booth for an Weatherly, who played

Logan on "Dark Angel," and the evil ex-husband on "Jesse," broke family tradition when he became an actor. And while he underplays it, the subversive move was probably more costly than he admits

"I grew up in Connecticut, went to an all-boys school and then went away to boarding school ..

he says

"So I grew up in a very narrow world ... I felt that I didn't know enough about the world at large, and I'm a people-watcher. I love to do that. I wanted to learn about other people. And so it's my endless fascination with what makes people tick.

Weatherly's parents divorced when he was 15 And he has a pack of half- and stepsiblings because each parent married three times. He also has one blood brother, William.

His father who is the exclusive importer and distributor of the Swiss Army knife, wasn't pleased when Weatherly told him he wanted to quit college in his senior year

"He lives in Jamaica half a year, and I called him in Jamaica and said. 'I'm going to move to New York, and I want to be an actor.' He said, 'You should think very carefully about what you are doing because you're closing doors by not finishing your education, and you're not allowing yourself the opportunity to become what you should one day become which is probably a mature adult."

So when Weatherly blew out political science for primetime he was on his own. "In the social hierarchy I took myself

down a notch," he says with a nod. Glanc-ing at August, he says, "This is probably not a great thing for future generations, but I didn't want to have a safety net I thought if I have a safety net, I'll get a job in advertising or something and I won't feel as motivated. I really needed all that motivation. ... But I don't think it was ever my father's intention to

put me on any kind of a trust fund. We don't have trust fund babies in our family. Once you're 18, you can go to college. And college is paid for, a gift of huge magnitude, but I looked a gift horse in the mouth and became an actor.

There were some struggling years, but Weatherly managed to cop a Snickers commercial and eventually wound up on daytime's "Loving," where he worked with his ex-wife, actress Amelia Heinle.

He wouldn't mind marrying again, he says, and is dating a woman who works in the pharindustry maceutical doesn't live in California

He's also dated Rachel Hunter and Jessica Alba.

"I heard a great thing about men and women. There are gardeners and there are flowers. You can have a gardener and a flower.

You can have a gardener and a gardener - might be a little boring but they're working hard. But if you have two flowers, nobody's taking care of the garden. Actors have a tendency to be flowers. So nobody's minding the garden

Looking lovingly at August, he adds "When I'm hanging out with you I'm sort of a gardener and you're the flower. You bring out the gardener in me.'

Loans heavy burden for some students

BY PETER SVENSSON

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Brennan Taylor has a good job, but spending \$200 on his daughter's seventh birthday seems like "an awful

"I'm trying to set a strict budget for the household," said Tay-lor, 34, a Madison, N.J., resident. "It's pretty stressful."

Taylor's finances and credit are hobbled by student loans - a fifth of his income every month goes toward paying down that

Surging college costs have saddled many people like him with steep debt at the start of their professional lives.

A 2002 survey of recent graduates by student loan company Nellie Mae found that the average student loan burden for a bachelor's degree was \$18,900, up 66 percent from five years earlier.

Thanks to low interest rates and increased initial salaries, the average amount recent graduates were spending on debt repayment was just 7 percent of their annual incomes. That number that has been fairly unchanged for the last 10 years and is considered manageable.

But many graduates' debt burdens are well above average. And many who follow passions that aren't bankable, make a few financial misstens or are just plain unlucky can find their debts are out



Brennan Taylor, left, sits with his daughter, Dirdre, and son, Crispin, right, and his wife, Krista White, at their home in Madison, N.J., on Monday. Taylor says he has to set a strict budget for the household because he is paying off his student loans and his wife is still studying for an advanced degree and racking up more debt.

Cherise Fung, 30, put herself through Cornell University after her parents died during her freshman year. Because she took several leaves of absence, it took her 10 years to graduate. And she was already dealing with financial problems when she returned to school from her last leave.

"I still haven't recovered from that one semester. And that was in 2001," the Flanders, N.J., resi-

Now Fung is finding that her degree in anthropology isn't opening a lot of doors. Her expenses are hard to meet with the jobs she's been getting, mostly office

"There's times when I wonder if maybe I would have been better off getting a job and not bothering with college," she said.

Part of the problem is that a bachelor's degree doesn't always cut it in today's workplace.

"The bachelor's degree has become the new high school de-gree," said Tamara Draut at Demos, New York-based think tank. A graduate degree is necessary to reach get to the top level of more and more professions.

"It's happening in education, business, even social work, Draut said.

Taylor got a graduate degree in Internet strategy management years ago. It cost him \$30,000 in loans, but has paid off with a job in Web publishing. Before that, he had "really crummy

Part of the reason he's still having trouble making ends meet is that his wife is working on a doctorate in anthropology and religion, a field where an advanced degree is practically necessary for work. She has racked up more than \$100,000 in debt and has two more years to go.

"What I'm dreading is when my wife's going to be done, because that's going to be huge, and her income probably isn't going to help a lot," Taylor said.

Among the effects of higher debt, according to the 2002 Nellie Mae survey: 38 percent of graduates reported delaying buying a home because of their loans, up from 25 percent in 1991, and 21 percent postponed having children, up from 12 percent in 1991.

Recause he's often a month hehind on student loan nayments. Taylor has had enough credit problems that he doubts he'll ever be able to afford a house. Be sides, he said, his wife's loans will be almost "mortgage scale."

As tuition costs and enrollment rose through the 1990s, grant money did not keep pace, meaning students have been shouldering an ever-increasing share of their education costs. While he fore, most were able to finance their studies with grants and part-time work, loans are now inescapable for many.

"This generation is the first to shoulder the costs of their college primarily through interest-bear-

College debt deepens by degree

A 2002 survey of recent graduates found the average student loan for a bachelor's degree was \$18,900, up 66 percent from five years earlier.

Borrowers in debt by degree \$10,000 or less

\$10,001 to \$20.000 \$20,001 to 30,000 More than \$30,000

INIOIC IIIIIII QUU,UUU										
Bachelor's	By perc	entag								
13 45	24	18								
Master's										
6 18 22 53										
Ph.D. 3										
20 13	63									
Professional										
13 12 6	69									
May not add to 100 due to rounding										

Average lifetime earnings for college degrees compared to a high school diploma

Bachelor's \$1.3 million Master's

\$1.7 Ph.D. \$2.6

Professional



ing loans rather than grants," Draut said.

Jacqueline King director at the American Council on Education's Center for Policy Analysis, believes the picture for more recent graduates may be even bleaker because the job market has weakened

"I think that we've been insulated from feeling the full effect of the increased borrowing by the fact that interest rates have been low, and up until the most recent years, the job market has been good." King said.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

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337.79					325.4	4	-3.02	92	-2.84	+21.57
7,273.18					7,055.2		35.31	50	-2.69	+8.12
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656,11	515.90	Russell 20	0Ď		617.4	8 .	11.06	-1.76	-5.23	+7.49
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Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Lucent	445894	3.64	08	SPDR	630013	118.01	72	Nasd100Tr	1246522	38.54	24
Pfizer	274314	26.27	18	SemiHTr	358663	31.35	55	SiriusS	1038000	7.64	+.13
AMD	191282	19.75	46	iShRs2000	147317	122.58	-2.50	StemCells	805417	5.56	41
GenElec	189075	35.93	22	DJIA Diam	107550	105.71	59	Intel	728432	22.39	22
Citigrp	187345	48.46	+.60	iShJapan	58980	10.60	01	Microsoft	703557	26.78	06
Texinst	176188	22.89	71	SP Engy	39740	34.65	15	Cisco	655900	18.57	+.01
QwestCm	174554	4.38	01	WheatR g	36577	3.15	08	SunMicro	571274	4.70	+.07
LSI Log	173851	5.73	+.71	DHB Inds	36184	16.70	+.17	JDS Uniph	481378	2.98	07
NortelN If	170428	3.36	+.01	iShREst	34481	115.51	-4.49	Oracle	420622	13.10	+.04
AMR	167436	9.05	96	BemaGold	33794	2.89	+.03	SiebelSys	394417	9.61	-27

Name	Div	PΕ	Last	Chg	٩á
Alliant Technosystem		16	64.00	+.70	- 5
Armor Holdings	-	30	45.56	+2.05	- 4
Boeing	1.00	15	50.81	+.83	
Computer Sciences	-	18	54.32	24	
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	21	56.10	37	- 4
General Dynamics	1.44	17	99.27	10	- 4
General Electric	.88	23	35.93	22	-
Halliburton	.50		37.58	48	-4
Harris Corp.	.48	26	56.85	62	-1
Allied Signal	.83	21	34.57	10	
L-3 Communications	.40	21	68.97	+.91	- 4
Lockheed Martin	1.00	20	54.63	+1.34	
NorthrpG s	.92	19	53.30	+.80	-
Raytheon	.80	42	36.88	+.30	- 4
Rockwell Intl.	.66	22	46.99	-1.01	- 4
Sequa Corp.	-	36	59.99	+.29	-
Texas Instruments	.10	21	22,89	71	- 4
Textron Inc.	1.40	31	71.00	+.20	-3
United Technologies	1.40	19	101.05	76	

larne	NAV	Chg.
idelity Invest: GroInc	37.56	08
idelity Invest: GroCo	53.88	31
mer Century Inv: Ultra	28.62	11
idelity Spartan: EqIdx	41.87	15
Putnam Funds A: GrinA p	18.58	07
idelity Invest: A Mgr	16.01	03
rank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	32.63	31
VM Investments A: Const p	22.08	11
idelity Invest: USBI idelity Invest: Ovrsea	11.11 34.35	13
idelity Invest: Ovrsea idelity Advisor T: GrOopT	29.74	- 14
idelity Advisor T: Grupp I	27.68	- 08
cudder Funds S: GroincS	21.39	08
Putnam Funds A: GlbEoty p	8.24	-03
VM Investments A: WeingA p	12.68	- 04
VIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.47	-06
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl		
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	43.15	10
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	17.23	06
ord Abbett A: DevGtA p	15.05	18
cudder Funds S: Income S	12.97	-
Merrill Lynch I: USGvtMtg	10.25	
cudder Funds S: Devel	18.81	16
tnam Funds A: GIGvA p	13.08	+.01

EXCHANGE RATES

..\$1.5305

Euro costs (Jan. 6). Dollar buys (Jan. 6)

Bahrain (Dinar)	П
British pound\$1.8779	П
British pound\$1.8779 Canada (Dollar)1.2269	П
Denmark (Krone)	П
Egypt (Pound)6.0702	П
Euro\$1.3233/0.7557	П
Egypt (Pound)	П
	П
Iceland (Krona)61.35	П
Iceland (Krona)	П
	П
Kuwait (Dinar)0.2920	П
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Saudi Arabia (Rival)3.7505	П
Singapore (Dollar)1.6480	П
South Korea (Won)1046.00 Switzerland (Franc)1.1727	ı
Switzerland (Franc)1.1727	П
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for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the	П
Netherlands and the United Kingdom.	П
For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-	П
nv), check with your local military bank-	П
ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-	П
bank rates provided for reference when	П
buying currency. All figures are foreign	П
currencies to one dollar, except for the	П
British pound, which is represented in	ı
dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is	ı
dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is	ı

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.2
Discount rate	3.2
Federal funds market rate	.25
3-month bill	2.3
30-year bond	4.83
Sources: The Associated Press, Ban	

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Job forecast looks good

NEW YORK - This year's college graduates stand to have an easier time finding employment than those of recent years, renorts the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Of employers queried in the association's annual survey, 61 percent said they plan to increase their hiring, 23 percent will maintain hiring levels and only 16 percent will decrease the number of new

college graduates they hire com-

pared with last year.

Last year, 51 percent of employers planned to increase the number of recent college graduates hired while 28 percent planned to decrease that number

Employers said they were also more optimistic about the year: namely, avoiding competition from other employers to find the right candidate and successfully attract students to a given industry or location.

SATURDAY EVENING / JANUARY 8 2005

MOVIES SPORTS

SH	0.	IDAI EV	LIVING /	UANUA	NH 1 8, 2	003					MO\	IES	 SPORTS
	J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	Headline News	•ESPNews	According to Jim "House for Sale" Devlins bid on a nearby house.		CSI: Miami "Deadli porter witnesses a drug district. (CC)		Law & Order: Spec "Lowdown" Detective tive when an ADA is	as search for a mo-	Headline News	Saturday Night Liv	e (CC)	
7	AFN-ATL		Switched! "Michael	Radio Free		Access Hollywood	I (CC)	●WWE Raw		According to Jim	Half & Half (CC)	CSI: Miami 'Deadlir	ne" (CC)
8	NEWS	Raven is in an ad. Hardball With Chris	and David" Matthews	Roscoe The O'Reilly Facto	turer (CC)	Dateline NBC (CC)		CNN Saturday Mor	ning (CC)	"House for Sale" Economy Watch C		CNN Saturday Mor	ning (CC)
-	SPORTS	•(5:00) NBA Baske	tball Philadelphia 76	ers at Minnesota	SportsCenter		Inside the NFL (C	C)			; news. os Angeles Lakers. F	rom Staples Center	●NFL Live
9	SPURIS	Timberwolves. From What Not to Wear *	the Target Center in Laura Miranda" Lau-	Minneapolis. Trading Spaces		Tru Calling "Star C	rossed" A pair of	1-800-Missing "Wh	in Los Angeles. (Liv te Whale" A serial	Friends Phoebe	Seinfeld Jerry	The Real World	Punk'd
10	SPEC	ra gets wardrobe he	lp.			young lovers killed i peal to Tru for help.	n a car accident ap-	killer is on the lose.	(CC)	lacks coordination. (CC)	challenges gang to a contest. (CC)	(CC)	
	AFN-FAM	Fairly Oddparents			01, Fantasy) Voices of	of Mike Myers.	** "North" (1994)	Elijah Wood, Bruce		My So-Called Life		The Simpsons	The Simpsons
	AFN-MOV	*** "Flatliners" (1990, Suspense) Kie	fer Sutherland, Julia		**** "Glory" (19	989, Drama) Matthew	Broderick, Denzel W		(:05) **** "The I	Big Chill" (1983, Dra	ma) Tom Berenger, (Glenn Close, William
14 24	TMC PBS			t the threshold of de Sing We Now of Cl of Carols (CC)	ath. 'R' (CC) rristmas: A Festival	On Stage at the Ke Holiday Concert fo	Union officer leads an ennedy Center: A or the Troops With	all-black regiment. 'I Christmas at Baylo		Hurt. A funeral reun	ites college friends fr nristmas: A Festival	Austin City Limits Vince Gill mixes mo	Country singer dern themes with
\dashv	SHOW			ost Dreams" (2002 ing spies and their ri		Marvin Hamlisch (of Rock" (2003, Cor red guitarist poses as	nedy) Jack Black, Jo a teacher 'PG-13' (/	an Cusack, Mike	++x"Barbershop"	" (2002, Comedy) los Entertainer. A barbers	country traditions. (C Cube, Anthony An-	
		powerful device. "PG American Justice "	(CC) For Love or Money	City Confidential "	Park City" A gay man	*** "Scent of a \	Woman" (1992, Dram			ers selling his estab	lishment. 'PG-13' (CC	Growing Up Gotti	Growing Up Gotti
27	A&E	A woman manipulat her husband. (CC) To Be Announced	es her lover to kill	is shot dead a minir Storm Warning!	g town. (CC)	a student to life's pl Anatomy of Disast		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		The Gottis deck the halls. (CC) Junkyard Wars (CC)	show. (CC)
28	DISC					·						ouningard mais (oc	,
29	TFC		(:45) Magandang G		Home Along the Airport	(:15) Kontrobersya		News	MYX Live	(:15) Magandang G			
30	CNN-I	Larry King Live (CI	C)	CNNI World News	●World Sport	CNNI World News	Ebizasia	CNNI World News	●World Sport	CNNI World News	●World Sport	CNNI World News	Talk Asia
31	GOLF	 Mercedes Cham- pionship 	Badds Down Under	Golf Central	•European PGA G	olf Algarve Open de	Portugal Final Rou	nd.			•Golf Central		•European PGA Golf
32	TLC	Trading Spaces "Lit Way" Women's shelt Ark. (N)	ttle Rock: Greenbrian er in Little Rock,	Trading Spaces: U and bloopers of son ments of the show.	nglued Outtakes se of the crazy mo-	Trading Spaces "L Valley Drive" TV sta redecorate rooms.	os Angeles: Carryon rs and their spouses	Trading Spaces "Li Way" Women's shel Ark.	ttle Rock: Greenbrian er in Little Rock,	Trading Spaces: U and bloopers of son ments of the show.	nglued Outtakes ne of the crazy mo-	The Best of Trading memorable moment	g Spaces The most is of the year.
34	TOON		He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	To Be Announced			Bugs & Daffy Show	Scooby-Doo, When	e Are You!	Cartoon Cartoon C	Cartoon shorts.	Flintstones	The Jetsons
35	ANPL	Planet's Funniest / video clips of anima season. (CC)	nimals Hilarious	City Slickers		Amazing Animal V tans save a moose; with a Christmas tre	ideos Good Samari- polar bears swim se. (CC)	Planet's Funniest a video clips of anima season. (CC)		City Slickers		Venom ER Rattler v hospital; public educ	
36	сом	Chris Rock: Bigger a stand-up routine. (& Blacker Comic C CC)	hris Rock performs	Chappelle's Show Snoop Dogg. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Blind white su- premacist. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Kanye West; Mos Def. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Record company spoof. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Wayne Brady. (CC)	** "The Hebrew Andy Dick. A Jewish	Hammer" (2003, Co hero arises to save	medy) Adam Goldbe Hanukkah from Sant	rg, Judy Greer, a's evil son. (CC)
40	NGC-A	Bear Wars Topic ad ing grizzly bears to t tain range in Montar	he Bitterroot Moun-	Twenty Years With	the Dolphins	Last of the Dragor		Taboo "Delicacies"		Riddles of the Dea bals?" New scientific balism.	d "Are We Canni- c evidence on canni-	White Shark!: Outs	side the Cage (CC)
42	SPIKE	(5:00) ★ * % "The W		(1999, Action) Piero	e Brosnan. James	 WWE Velocity So takes on Heidenreic 	heduled: Undertaker	** "The World Is	Not Enough" (1999 ustrialist's daughter. (, Action) Pierce Bros	inan, Sophie Marcea	u, Robert Carlyle. Jar	mes Bond must pro-
43	FOX	Stargate SG-1 "Rev ers an oasis of life o (CC)	isions" SG-1 discov-	The Outer Limits " vice allows convicts life sentence in a fer	to mentally serve a	Cops A plane crash; a lost boy and his puppy.	Cops A man suf- fers a violent seizure. (CC)	Funniest Holiday I			rtini Shot" The team rmodels engaged in	Mad TV "Holiday Sh sketches. (CC)	ow' Holiday-themed
44	BET	Coming to the Stag	je	Rap City Top 10	* 110010.		04 Performances by I	nip-hop artists.		Club Comic View		Maad Sports	BET Style
46	COURT	"Death of a Cheerl Harper. A girl's jeald	eader" (1994, Drami usy toward a classm	a) Kellie Martin, Tori : ate leads to tragedy.	Spelling, Valerie	Masterminds "James Bond Gang"	Masterminds Bank robber strikes on Fridays.	Masterminds	Masterminds "The Kansas City Dia- mond Heist"	Masterminds "Slot Machine Genius"	Masterminds	Masterminds A perfectionistic thief.	Masterminds "The Cairo Caper"
48	STR-WLD	The Simpsons (CC)	Dr. Ramesh Richard	Dark Angel (CC)		To Be Announced	i maya.	To Be Announced	IIIONO I RODA				The Kumars at No 42
50	LIFE	"Identity Theft: The Williams-Paisley, An battle to restore her	nabella Sciorra, Jaso	ory" (2004, Docudra in London. A woman	ma) Kimberly faces a nightmarish	"Homeless to Harr Lynch, Michael Rile around. (CC)	vard: The Liz Murray y. The homeless daug	Story" (2003, Dram other of drug addicts	a) Thora Birch, Kelly turns her life	Providence "The Ki Russian art prodigy has his eye on Syd.	ss" A 19-year-old with a brain tumor (CC)	Paid Program	Paid Program
51	ABCFAM	(5:00) "The Christn Mimi Rogers. A store item on her extravac	nas List" (1997) e clerk gets every	** * "Scrooged" less network execut		Aurray Karen Allen	Carol Kane. A heart-	3rd Rock From the Sun Politically cor- rect. (CC)	3rd Rock From the Sun Harry subs for Nina.		Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program
53	HIST	(5:00) A History of		Biblical Disasters 1 how these accounts	Whether biblical acco provide insight into r	unts of disasters are modern-day catastro	fact or fiction, and phes. (CC)	A History of God E ing the roots of mon tions of today. (CC)	xploring the age-old otheism from the an	quest for meaning in cient Middle East to t	existence and trac- he Western civiliza-	Biblical Disasters ((CC)
57	STR-MV	(5:15) Movie		(:15) Movie				Movie			(:45) Movie		
58	ADV 1	(5:30) In the Wake of Vikings	Into the Unknown	Next Wave Scien- tist studies volcano threat.	•X Power Climbers of the world's fifth hi	journey to the peak ghest mountain.	Game for It	In the Wake of Viki take on the remote . Norway.	ngs Sea kayakers Arctic of northern	Into the Unknown	Adventure Challe	nge	Action Asia Challenge 2004 From Macau.
59	MTV	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge Paintball.	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge Swinging.	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)	Punk'd Mike Shino- da.	Punk'd Good Char- lotte.	Punk'd Julia Stiles; The Rock.	Punk'd Vivica Fox; Chris Klein.	Viva La Bam	Viva La Bam
60	NICK	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Zim	Tomato Twins	Action League Now		rathon: Rugrats An	gelica Episodes of p	opular programming.	The Amanda Show	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	The Wild Thorn- berrys (CC)	Hey Arnold! (CC)

JAPAN TV

12:00 Japan Senior High School Soccer: Semi-finals (4) 1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Dance (3)(r)

2:05 Japan Senior High School Soccer: Semifi-nals (42) 3:55 Japan Senior High School Soccer High-lights (4)

4:30 Between the Lions (3)(r) Evening

7:00 News (1)
7:00 Japan Senior High School Soccer: Semifi-nals (42) 9:00 Hong Kong Movie (2001): Shaolin Soccer (1:54)(8)

12:55 E.R. VIII (1) 1:45 Japanese Major Leaguers: Hideki Mat-sul/Hideo Nomo (1) 2:26 Japan Pro Boxing (4) 3:02 Cooking: Japanese New Year Dishes (1) 3:20 British-French Movie (2000): The Man Who Cried (1:40)(12) 3:26 NFL Digest (4) 3:45 Classical Music (1)

JAPAN TV-BS7

Morning 6:10 World News 7:10 World News 8:10 World News Hour 9:10 World News Hour 10:10 World Reports (r) 11:50 CNN News

11:50 CNN News Afternoon 2:03 Men's Volleyball V-League: Panasonic Panthers vs. Osaka Sakal Blazers 4:10 X-Games 2004 4:40 Football Mundial 5:10 Figure Skating GP Final: Exhibitions Evening

6:10 BS Documentary: The Doctor, The De-pleted Uranium and Dying Children (r) 7:10 NBA: Miami Heat vs. Portland Trail Blaz-

ers 9:10 NFL Weekly

9:10 NFL Weekly 12:10 CNN News 12:20 NFL Weekly 12:40 X-Games 2004 1:10 NBA: Miami Heat vs. Portland Trail Blaz-

ers 3:10 What's On Asia 3:35 World Amazing Sports 4:10 What's On Japan 5:10 NFL Weekly 5:40 Football Mundial

JAPAN TV-BS11

Evening 7:00 NHK News

7:00 NHK News 1:15 U.S. News (1998): The Hi-Lo Country (2:00) Morning

wowow

Morning 8:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek 9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-tion - Miami 2 Afternoon 1:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Trapped (1:48) 5:30 U.S. Movie (2003): Charile's Angels: Full Throttle (1:50)

Throttle (2002): Moonlight Mile (2:00) 10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Moonlight Mile (2:05) 10:00 U.S. Movie (2003): Underworld (2:05) 12:05 TV Series: Friends: The Best #3 12:40 TV Series: Friends: The Best #4 5:55 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (live)

MTV

6:00 Wake Up!
8:00 Classic 909
9:00 Japan Chart Top 30
Aftermoon
Aftermoon
100 World Chart Top 10
100 World Chart Express Supported by
Hondid Chart Express Supported by
3:00 Pimp My Ride
3:30 America or Busted
4:00 On-Air Chart Top 30

4:00 Un-Air Chart 10p .90

Evening
7:00 Consensus: Spitz
7:00 Screen
8:00 Beastie Boys Special/Live at SUMMER
SONIC 2004/Videography/2\$Bill/Live 2
the 5 Boroughs
10:30 Biography: EXILE
11:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry

11:00 U.S. Top 20 with Si 1:00 Pimp My Ride 1:30 Check the Rhyme 2:00 America or Busted 2:30 Rock On 3:00 Fresh 3:30 After Hours

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Stars and Strines (USPS 417 900) is published daily (except Stars and Stripes (USPS 417 900) is published daily (ed. Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 sunday by Stars and Stripes central office, \$29 14th St. NW, Suira 350, Wast 100, 20045-1301, Periodicals postage paid at Sar Francisco, Pestmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stri Unit 45002, APD A9 9337-500.

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Angry over re-up bonuses

I read in Stars and Stripes about the re-en listment bonuses the reservists and National Guard are getting to stay in the military. I'm active-duty Army and I'm extremely upset about that

The government is dishing out all this and National money to keep reservists and National Guardsmen in the military. What about the active-duty soldiers it already has? I can have the same military occupational specialty as a reservist and not get the same bonus

he can. The government isn't giving active duty any incentives to re-enlist. I see that as a slan in the face. We do our job 365 days a year, pull duty and work overtime. Unless the reserve is activated, the only time reservists do the same job we do is one week-

end a month, two weeks out of the year. All the focus is on giving the reserves incentives, like active-duty soldiers don't mean anything. It seems it would be more cost-effective to try to keep the active-duty soldiers you already have than to let them leave the Army and have to train new sol-

diers The Army is composed of active duty and reserve. I think the government should do what is necessary to keep both sides of the service in

For example, why aren't active-duty soldiers in Qatar eligible for the re-enlistment bonus? We are deployed in a danger zone for a year like everyone else. Granted, we aren't being mortared every day or have to worry about roadside hombs and rocket-propelled grenades like our fellow soldiers up north, but our lives are in danger just like ev ervone else's. Someone has to be in Oatar. We are supposed to be an Army of One Spc. Deandrea Cooke

Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar

Southern hospitality evident

I was taking my daughter to school this morning, and at the red light I looked at the vehicle next to mine, which had a yellow "support the troops" ribbon on it. That got me to thinking about the war in Iraq, and I decided I wanted to send a letter of encouragement to the troops.

I think I represent the average American. The things I want the troops to know are: In

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity

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my part of the country, from Alabama to Louisiana, cars and trucks are plastered with "support the troops" ribbons. Every day I and countless others pray for the troops' safety and that God will grant them victory over our enemies and the enemies of all freedom-loving people. The jobs U.S. servicemembers are doing are thankless ones, but I want them to know that all of us in the States appreciate what they are doing and think about the troops daily. Keep up the good work.

William Sanders Florence Ala

Media can help win war

To watch the media and read the papers over the past two years, one would get the distinct impression that no amount of mili-

tary might can win the war in Iraq. All of our soldiers are in constant danger everywhere in country. Coalition victories over the insurgents (save the highly successful assault on Fallujah) are few and are so in-

significant that they aren't worth reporting. Even when victories are reported, the re norting tends to concentrate on negative aspects of the battle (i.e. U.S. losses, or the nount of insurgents who escaped).

It's been some time since I saw a newsna per headline that listed something other than U.S. deaths. I want to congratulate Stars and Stripes and The Associated Press for publishing an article ("25 insurgents killed in assault on U.S. post," Jan. 1/Jan. 2 edition) that shows a battle with insurgents in a relatively positive light.

If there were more such articles, public opinion about the war would be very different from what it is right now. I believe that if there had been more articles like this when the insurgency was just starting, it would be where near as strong as it is now.

The insurgents gain information from newspapers and television. It's a simple and effective way of finding out how successful their attacks are — as well as finding potential weaknesses to exploit, not to mention a useful recruiting tool for the insurgents If the media instead concentrated on how

ineffective the insurgent attacks usually are, concentrated on enemy losses instead of coalition losses, and quit violating operations security, then the insurgents would have a much harder time finding recruits

The media can play an active role in winning this thing, and it wouldn't be that hard to do. Getting on our side of the fight would probably make people trust the media more, as well. Spc. Ken Warner

Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq

U.S. isn't 'stingy' with aid

The attack on President Bush from CNN and the rest of the left-leaning media is really hurtful ... and a shame.

To accuse the United States of being stingy [in terms of financial aid for tsunami victims] is a character attack that is, if nothing else, unfair! The United States is generous to a fault when it comes to a disaster anywhere in the world, regardless of the political bent of a country

I might add that when we had our own disaster from hurricanes a few months ago in Florida and Louisiana I do not recall C-54s landing with blankets and water from other es. It was our disaster and we were. as usual, on our own.

Richard H. Frese Stuttgart, Germany

Doonesbury Flashbacks









Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY







Looking at the news

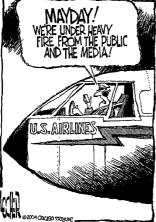
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons













PAGE 16 J 9/3464646184 STARS AND S

Agencies bid for reef

CA VENTURA — Federal and local agencies want to build an artificial reef between Mussel Shoals and Seacliff to combat beach erosion.

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans Nourishment, and known as BEACON. and the Army Corps of Engineers applied to the Califor-

Coastal Commission to build the \$2 million reef at the old Mobil Oil Piers site.

The commission could schedule a public hearing soon. If the project is approved, construction is possible as early as this summer.

'Dixie' causes stir

WI MADISON — A high school band's performance of an Elvis Presley hit during the Senate's inaugural ceremony has drawn a complaint from a newly elected member because it included a version of "Dixie."

The Richland Center High School band played a version of "An American Trilogy" at the Capitol — a song that mixes "Dixie" with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the spiritual "All My Trials.

To many blacks, "Dixie" is a symbol of racism and slavery.

Sen. Spencer Coggs, who is black, said he was shocked to hear the strains of the Southern anthem and complained in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Dale Schultz.

"Whether the slight was intentional or not, the selection was not appropriate," he wrote. "It is unfortunate that this special day was marred by such an unnecessary event

Schultz said he wasn't aware of every musical selection the band prepared for the event and said he would apologize. "If Sen. Coggs felt offended. I would want to evtend my hand in apology," he said.

Free ride to iail

LA SLIDELL — A tourist who called 911 to demand a ride to the bus station instead got a lift to jail.

The St. Tammany Parish sher iff's office said James Brown of St. Louis called from a pay phone and threatened to kill someone if he didn't get a ride to the bus station. When deputies arrived, officials said they found the man intoxicated and helligerent. He was booked on charges of misuse of 911

Adirondack protection

ALBANY - The state agreed to protect 104,000 acres of northern Adirondack timberlands from development and provide public recreational access. Gov. George Pataki said. The parcels in Clinton and Franklin counties represent the holdings of Domtar Industries in the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park.

The deal is expected to add 20,000 acres directly to state forests and limited access to another 84,000 acres for hiking, snowmobiling and some ATV use

Hispanic baby boom

39.000 babies were born to



Brentwood Place nursing home told The Dallas Morning News that they were cooperating with repre sentatives from the Medicaid fraud control unit of the Texas attorney general's office in the investigation of David Wavne Rhodes.

AMERICAN Skier dies on slopes ROUNDUP

year, according to state statistics.

rapidly growing Hispanic popula-

"Every demographer I've talked

to thinks the majority of Arizona's

population will be Hispanic by

2035 or 2045," said Loui Olivas, a

professor at Arizona State Univer-

Controlling wild wolves

BOISE — Idaho and Mon-tana will get more authority

to manage gray wolves under a

new rule adopted by the federal

government, wildlife officials an-

The rule which takes effect Feb.

2, gives the states and private land-

owners more control in curbing

wolf attacks on livestock, domestic

Ed Bangs, wolf recovery team

leader for the U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Service, said the new rule

would especially help private land-

owners by allowing wolves to be

killed without prior written approv-

al if ranchers can prove the ani-

Fake nurse investigated

cense at a retirement home is

under investigation by state regula-

Arizona snow angel

Alister Marshall, 4, makes a snow

angel in Thorpe Park in Flagstaff,

with his family from Phoenix to play

Ariz. Marshall came to Flagstaff

in the snow

DALLAS - A man who worked without a nursing li-

mals are harassing livestock.

animals and wild game herds.

nounced.

KILLINGTON — A 27-year-old Massachusetts man died after falling on one of Hispanic women in Arizona in Killington Resort's most difficult 2003, compared with about 38,800 trails and then sliding out of conbabies born to Anglo women that trol into trees. The numbers reflect the state's

Vermont State Police said Andrew Begley of Cambridge, Mass., apparently lost control while skiing on the Double Dipper trail.

Lt. David Covell said that Begley slid "a significant distance," going off the Double Dipper trail through a roped-off area where Killington snow guns were stored and into the Big Dipper trail before a tree stopped his slide.

"It looks possible that he may have collided with some equipment in that initial closed area he entered." Covell said.

Justice sues colleagues

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — A member of Oklahoma's highest court got passed over for chief justice, and now he's suing his eight colleagues because he thinks they skipped him because of his age.

Justice Marian P. Opala, 83, filed the lawsuit in federal district court, charging he was discriminated against when his fellow justices changed a rule to allow the chief justice to serve consecutive terms. The post had been rotated every two years

The rule change in November allowed Chief Justice Joseph M. Watt to succeed himself. Opala would have been in line to lead the count

In his lawsuit, Opala described himself as in good health and of sound mind. He said his age was "a significant factor" in being passed over for chief justice, a post that carries with it "ceremonial duties" and a bigger paycheck. A justice earns an annual salary of \$107,000, the chief justice \$110,000.

West Nile cases down

NM SANTA FE — New Mexico had 88 confirmed cases of West Nile virus in 2004, including four deaths, according to the state Department of Health

The total was far less than the 209 cases confirmed in 2003 when four elderly people died of the infection

Bobcat iob boost

ND BISMARCK — Gov. John Hoeven's State of the State speech to open the legislative session came with an announcement that the Bobcat company plans to add 100 jobs in Bismarck.

The North Dakota company makes skid-steer loaders and other heavy equipment. Bobcat employs more than 2,600 people in the state and has an annual payroll of more than \$1 billion, Hoeven said.



Mother Nature at work A water spout appears just off the coast of Palos Verdes, Calif., during a break in a winter storm.



Through the fog A train travels in the fog across a bridge spanning the Arkansas River in Fort Smith, Ark. The warmer air temperatures hovering over the cooler water created the foggy mist.



Wading in the water Audrey Morrison, left, and her sister, Brittney, play in the water just off shore at Lake Nicol in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The outing started as a fishing trip but turned into wading in the lake when the fishing line became snagged. The two were accompanied by their father, Jerrold Morrison. and grandmother Katherine Morrison.

PHOENIX — More than



Braving the winter

A woman braces against the cold and blowing snow as she walks down 17th Street in downtown Denver.



Letting off steam

Steam rises from Mount St. Helens in Wasington state.



Later, gator Todd Hardwick, right, from Pesky Critters, along with officers from Fish and Wildlife and a crew of firefighters remove a large alliga from Wagner Creek alongside Cedars Medical Center in Miami.



Vegas afterglow

Lights from hotel-casinos on the Strip reflect on low-passing clouds during a storm in I as Vegas

Historic hat purchased

ANCHORAGE — A rare 19th-century Alaska Native spruce root hat adorned with heads and sea lion whiskers will stay in the state after its purchase by two Alaska museums.

The Alutiiq Museum of Kodiak and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art combined to buy the Alutiiq spruce root hunting hat from a Juneau family, which had offered the artifact Dec. 6 at a Bonhams and Butterfields Auction in San Francisco. The price was \$160,250. "This is the first one that is going

to be here in Alaska," said Sven Haakanson Jr., executive director of the Alutiiq Museum.

The Alutiiq people traditionally lived between Southcentral Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula. Most were on Kodiak Island. America's second-largest island after Hawaii.

Asbestos closes school

HI HONOLULU — Students at King Intermediate School along Windward Oahu are going to get an even longer break from classes that previously expected, public school officials said

The school was closed Dec. 15, three days before winter recess was set to begin, so campus buildings could be cleaned of asbestos.

The school was to reopen after winter vacation and intersession But state Schools Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto said inclement weather delayed testing results and any subsequent cleaning that could be necessary.

Classes at King Intermediate are now set to resume Jan. 13th, she said

Don't forget the horses

KY LOUISVILLE — A group of Kentucky horse breeders and farm owners has launched a billboard campaign showing how tenuous the state's claim as the horse capital could become

Billboards along a stretch of Interstate 64 in Louisville proclaim. "Welcome to New York, Horse Capital of the World."

The Kentucky Equine Education Project is paying for eight to 10 billboards in Louisville and Lexington and several more in Frankfort over the next few months

Claria Horn Shadwick, KEEP's executive director, said the billboards are part of the group's goal of educating the state about the economic importance of horses in Kentucky.

"It's an extension of KEEP's educational phase, which is to make the point pretty forcefully and bluntly that our state can't take the industry for granted," she

Bartender held hostage

NY GOWANDA — A wood-New York man said to be grieving the death of a family member took a bartender hostage and opened fire on police during a four-hour standoff that ended only after he passed out drunk, authorities said.

Dale Covert was facing a charge of attempted murder after firing a single round at a Gowanda police officer, State Police Mai, Michael Manning said.

Police responded to the Palm Gardens restaurant lounge 30 miles south of Buffalo around 3

p.m. after receiving a report of a man brandishing a gun inside the establishment, where Covert was holding a female bartender.

Shortly after 6:30 p.m., the bartender emerged from the bar, unharmed. Covert, who was drinking heavily, then passed out, Manning

Politicians admit bribe

BROWNSVILLE former Willacy County commissioners pleaded guilty to accepting bribes for their votes on federal prison contracts.

Jose Jimenez, 67, of Sebastian. and Israel Tamez, 58, of Raymondville, waived indictment and admitted accepting more than \$10,000 each from companies competing for work on the Willacy County Adult Correctional Center. The \$14.5 million prison was being built to house federal inmates.

Federal prosecutors say the men accepted the bribes between June 2000 and March 2003.

Both men are free on \$50,000 nersonal recognizance bonds They have agreed to cooperate an ongoing investigation by the FBI, Texas Rangers, and Willacy County Sheriff's Department.

Each faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine at their April 11 sentencing

Help for drug addicts

KY PIKEVILLE — Gov. Ernie Fletcher unveiled a \$9.5 million initiative to help pay for the construction and operation of 10 recovery centers for drug addicts.

The effort would focus on home-less people. Fletcher said he expects two of the centers to be in eastern Kentucky, where police are combating what has been called an epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

N.J. losing millionaires

NEWARK — The number of millionaires in New Jersey declined, an annual report showed. The report said 8,300 Garden

State residents reported taxable income of \$1 million or more in 2002, the fewest since 1998 and far short of the peak of 12,365 posted in

The report also showed that total income in New Jersey declined for the second straight year.

Musket shoot will go on CHARLOTTE — A teenag-

er was killed during a rural town's New Year's tradition of firing vintage black-powder muskets into the air, but town officials declared that the centuries old ritual would continue to be celebrated.

During the revelry, a rifle ex-ploded and pieces of the barrel struck 18-year-old Matthew K Shook in the side of the head.

"There's no effort in place here to end the practice," Mayor Bob Austell said in a telephone interview. "This is something that's been going on in Cherryville for more than 200 years. We have grandsons firing off muskets that once belonged to their grandfathers.

Austell conceded, however, it was time to review safety stan-dards for the "New Year's Shoot" in Cherryville, a town of 5,400 about 40 miles west of Charlotte.

Stories and photos from wire service

vised

J Horoscope

The moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Pluto are having a cosmic prom in Sagittarius while the Capricorn sun watches like a chaper one with a ruler to make **Holiday Mathis** sure nobody gets too close on the dance floor. We want to cut loose - and we do cut loose - with the caveat in the back of our minds that we are being super-

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 8). Commitments are made and kept, offering you a feeling of peace and security through the year. Flirting turns serious this month. Couples sneak away and

renew interest in one another before the winter is over. Working at home brings extra money and a chance to invest in something exciting and lucrative in the spring. Love signs are Libra and Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19). All bets are off. Though you're

seeking a relationship with a person of great feeling and conscience, you could, paradoxically, get more substance out of a passing friendship with a person who is frivolous and

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Release judgment. Fanciful notions are sounder than reasonable ones. Female energy has something to

add to your life now. Wise words emanate from the grown daughter of someone you know GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Random details aren't so random after all. Be reassured that order reigns behind the scenes. You'll piece together two or three clues and come to a conclusion. Share

what you learn with friends. CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Conflicting impulses are featured: the need for order and security, and the craving for novelty and adventure. By hanging out with an air sign (Libra, Gemini or Aquarius), you can meet both appetites in one experience

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's no question what you must do in order to succeed. Terms that were

once uncertain are now clearly defined. A partner lays down a gospel that you'd be wise to obey if you want the relationship to work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The day plays out like a slow ballad.

The buildup and the payoff come at predictable moments, so make sure you're there to sing along. Anyone who avoids the action will

really be missing out LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). You're attracted to danger. Your behavior in a certain relationship could be likened to a sword dance. One slip, and you could

hurt yourself, not to mention the other person. Still, there's grace and beauty in this connection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your inner dialogue is a stark contrast to your actions - good thing. When you'd love to freak out, you remain relaxed, amiable and entertaining. By day's end, there are people in your realm who'd like to be

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's wisdom in your instincts that simply can't be accessed through your rational mind. So when faced with a dilemma, as you will be this afternoon, breathe slowly and

deeply, quieting your mind. Think with your gut.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone attempts to entice you with promises that are just too wonderful. The skeptic in you leaps to the rescue. You're enriched by an interaction with a tender, respectful

brother figure AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You feel ready to move on to the next level, but something stops you Probably, the work you've done isn't exactly the work that is required. Ask questions, and make adjustments. and you'll get your breakthrough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What's been offered to you in the past is no indication of what can and will be offered to you in the future. Remain optimistic. Use a unique approach to romance, one that vou've never tried before

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Peanuts











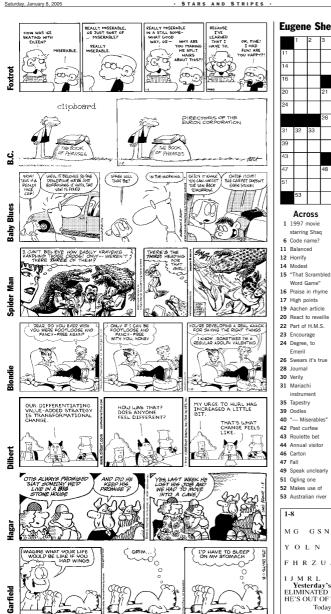












Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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Across

- 1 1997 movie
- starring Shaq 6 Code name?
- 11 Balanced
- 12 Horrify
- 14 Modest
- 15 "That Scrambled Word Game"
- 16 Praise in rhyme
- 17 High points
- 19 Aachen article
- 20 React to reveille
- 22 Part of H.M.S.
- 23 Encourage
- Emeril
- 26 Swears it's true

- 31 Mariachi
- 35 Tapestry
- 42 Past curfew
- 43 Roulette bet
- 46 Carton
- 47 Fall
- 49 Speak unclearly
- 52 Makes use of
- 53 Australian river
- 51 Ogling one

- 54 Supermarket lineun Down
- 1 Tiny apartment
- 2 Least ferocious
- 3 Recede
- 4 Ms. Fitzgerald 5 Bloodsucker
- 6 Sovereign

(Abbr.)

10 Mama Cass

11 Cut

13 Imparts

9 Tools for duels

temporarily

18 Hamm of soccer

- power
- 7 Piece of work
- 8 Turntable rate 37 Coral formations
- 36 VW model 38 Male and

21 Brilliance

31 Mall

23 Lustrous gem

25 Ad — committee

27 Afternoon social

29 Exhibition area

components

32 Unga residents

"Worm"

33 Cager nicknamed

34 Neptune's realm

- female
- 41 Poison dogwood
- 44 Ball of varn
- 45 Capital of Fiji
- 48 Kinsman 50 Scratch

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOQUIP

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IJMRL OHYL THJGNJ 1 J M R L M Q H Y I T H J G N J .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ACTOR IS
ELIMINATED FROM A FILM'S CAST, I SUPPOSE HE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S

I have my dear

to thank

第3種郵便物認可

Some men aren't marrying type

Dear Abby: I have been dating a very special man named "Josh" for three years. He has had only one long-term relation-ship, which produced two chil-

dren My problem is Josh does not believe in marriage. I do not believe in living with Dear Abby someone, and I do be-lieve in marriage.

I have asked Josh for a commitment on several occasions, and I always get a negative response Am I being strung along, and what should I do

- Downhearted in Ohio Dear Downhearted: You're not being strung along. Josh has been honest with you - he's not interested in marriage. In order for a marriage to happen, both parties must want

to make a commitment. The fact that he has fathered not one, but two children and didn't marry the mother should be a clue. He's not the marrying kind.

If marriage is important to you, end this romance and find a to your own. You already have devoted more time to this campaign than you should have.

Dear Abby: I have a 2-year-old son who is scared to death of getting his hair cut. In

the past. I have done it with electric clippers on the advice of my wife's hairstylist. Hearing a small child cry and scream is the worst experience in the world. I got so upset

the last time that I told my wife I refuse to cut his hair again, because it is so hard on both of us. I suggested we wait until he is older to take him to the barber.

My wife insists that I cut his hair because it is "plucking on her nerves." I feel it's too soon and not worth the terror he goes through. Should I stand my ground or am I too soft-hearted?

- Worried Dad in Mississinni Dear Dad: Take your son to a hairdresser who is used to workhold the child on your lan while the stylist works his or her "magic." It may take a little extra time, plus a dose of distrac tion and child psychology, but the experience needn't be traumatic for anyone - including

Dear Abby: I was invited to my high school reunion, and I really want to go - but I didn't graduate with my class. What is the proper thing to do? Should I go or just stay home?

- Wants to Go in California Dear Wants to Go: The invitation said "reunion." It's not a review of who graduated with the class and who didn't. Since you were invited, and you'd like to see your old classmates, accept the invitation and go. I'm sure they'll be as glad to see you as you are to see them.

Letters for this column - with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at

http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



SLUHBE CYOUTH

Answer:

suggested by the above cartoon

HOW SHE FELT WHEN HER COB-

BLER RECIPE WON

THE BLUE RIBBON.

Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as

Yesterday's

Jumbles: UNWED FLORA UPLIFT BANTER The furniture salesman was hired because he was - TOP "DRAWER"

Having kids choice, not obligation

Dear Annie: I read the letter from

"Child-Free by Choice." I am 50 years old and never had the slightest desire to have children. My aunt once told me that I was selfish not to provide my mother with grandchildren. Here's what I consider selfish:

1 Women who have children they can't afford and expect the rest of us to pay for them

2. Women who have children while married to or involved with, men who abuse them These men are highly likely to abuse the children, too.

3. People who have children hoping to save a failing relation-

4. People who keep having children because they are trying for a particular sex

5. Alcoholics and drug addicts who continue to drink and do drugs while pregnant, knowing



the effects it could have on the child. I'm glad some of us realize we are not

parent material. - Child-Free

and Happy Dear Child-Free: You aren't the only one who thought so. Read

From Connecticut I'm 38, my husband is 43 and we've been

married five years. Neither of us has a burning need to reproduce. Two years before our wedding, my husband noticed a couple in their mid-40s, enjoying themselves on a docked boat. The name of the hoat? "Instead of Kids." That did it for us.

East Coast: I was married at 18, had my first child at 19, and my third at 25. When I asked to have a tubal ligation. I was told. "You're too young. Wait until you're 30." On my 30th birthday, I asked again to have the surgery and was told to wait three more

All this time, I've been taking either birth control pills or inject tions that put me at risk for blood clots and stroke and have kent my weight and blood pressure up, just to keep me from having that extra kid I don't want. I love the children I have, I just don't want any more.

Midwest: I'm 41 years old, married 11 years. I have no urge to put on excess weight, throw up in the morning, have swollen ankles and go through hours of labor. I believe people are jealous that I have a higher standard of living and a more carefree lifestyle. I come and go as I please. I buy whatever I want or need. They, on the other hand, have to plan their life around the needs and wants of their chil-

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/O creators Syndi-cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Can we have something new and improved for dinner?"

Whyis Temptation





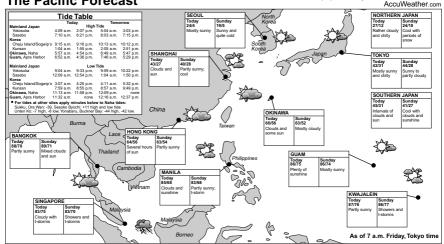


'Well, shoot. I just can't figure it out. I'm movin' over 500 doughnuts a day but I'm still just barely squeakin' by."



The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2005



Extended Forecasts

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 43, low 35. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 48, low 36,

KADENA

Monday: Rain, high 63, low 55. Tuesday: Rain, high 66, low 58.

SEOUL Monday: Mostly sunny,

high 24, low 12 Tuesday: Sunny high 27 low 12

MANILA

Monday: Periods of clouds and high 84, low 68. Tuesday: Mostly cloudy. high 85, low 69.

HAGATNA

Monday: Showers, high 86, low 76. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 76.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	43/26	Los Angeles	60/47
Amarillo	45/26	Little Rock	38/34
Anchorage	32/16	Louisville	42/26
Asheville	63/40	Miami	80/68
Baltimore	54/34	Milwaukee	25/14
Birmingham	59/45	Nashville	47/33
Bismarck	19/2	New York	39/34
Boise	32/25	Omaha	12/10
Boston	36/32	Orlando	80/60
Brownsville	62/58	Philadelphia	46/38
Buffalo	35/26	Phoenix	59/42
Burlington	28/22	Pittsburgh	54/29
Charleston, St		Portland, OR	41/36
Charlotte	70/45	Portland, ME	30/23
Cleveland	38/24	Salt Lake City	32/21
Columbus, OF	40/26	St. Louis	29/20
Duluth	14/0	San Antonio	46/38
El Paso	53/34	San Diego	60/48
Hartford	34/29	San Juan	84/72
Helena	19/1	Tampa	78/64
Indianapolis	34/21	Tulsa	26/25
Jacksonville	79/55	Washington	56/40
Kansas City	19/16	Wichita	25/21

Saturday, January 08



U.S. Extended Forecast

A low pressure center will bring rain to the Appalachians and the mid-Atlantic region on Saturday; a wintry mix will occur from the New York/Pennsylvania border into central Ohio. Some showers will dampen parts of the Southeast along the storm's cold front. Dry weather will dominate most of the Plains and Midwest; however, a cold front will trigger flurries and keep cold air filtering into the northern Plains. A parade of Pacific storm systems will lead to a wet day for much of the West. The first system will cause heavy snow to fall over the Rockies with more rain streaming into Southern California. Rain and mountain snow will accompany the other system pushing into the Northwest.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures					Saturday's World Temperatures								
CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY H	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/70	lwakuni	43/28	Sasebo NB	45/31	Acapulco	92/76	Budapest	50/40	Kabul	44/19	Nairobi	85/56
Beijing	27/10	Kadena AB	66/56	Sapporo	27/12	Athens	52/42	Buenos Aires	90/71	Kiev	41/32	New Delhi	75/45
Camp Casey	24/3	Kunsan AB	32/16	Seoul	24/4	Auckland	75/57	Cairo	58/31	Kuwait	64/41	Oslo	37/28
Christchurch	66/43	Kwajalein	87/76	Shanghai	43/27	Baghdad	60/38	Cancun	82/68	London	50/37	Paris	46/36
Diego Garcia	84/75	Manila	85/68	Singapore	83/75	Barbados	81/65	Cape Town	68/48	Madrid	55/42	Rio de Janeiro	82/71
Hagatna	86/75	Misawa AB	31/14	Sydney	73/55	Barcelona	58/46	Geneva	47/36	Mexico City	70/45	Rome	58/45
Hanoi	69/56	Osan	27/6	Taegu	35/17	Berlin	47/34	Istanbul	45/39	Montreal	31/20	St. Petersburg	40/30
Hong Kong	64/56	Perth	86/64	Taipei	66/51	Bermuda	76/62	Jerusalem	55/41	Mogadishu	90/74	Stockholm	41/31
Honolulu	81/70	Pusan	38/24	Tokyo	42/31	Brussels	46/29	Johannesburg	88/62	Moscow	32/28	Warsaw	46/33



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152 Okinawa

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roses, Okinawa - Hoover Car-pet Cleaner. Nothing fancy but it gets the job done. Only used a couple times, bought a new one so I have no more room. Call 646-3185

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Kadena, Okinawa - Dehumidifier
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shape for only \$100. Call shape for only \$100. 633-9131 or 090-6860-4399. Kadena, Okinawa - National 3-door Refrigerator/Freezer with Vegetable Drawer: Light Gray matble, 70°x24" Great shape, lots of room 8 ideal for off-base apartments. Available in 2-3 weeks. Paid \$400, PCS sale \$250. Call 893-7703 or

so. Call 893-7703 or achinkoŵyahoo.com dena, Ckinawa - Toastmaster rivection OveriBroller, 450 ree, 22"x12"x13" great for base apartments, can fit pe baking dish for calles, ca, and lassigna. PCS sale J. Call 893-7703 or lachinkoŵyahoo.com or adena, Okinawa - Toeliba Alir nditioner & compressor set-color, Heater, Dehumdiller, Heater, Dehumdiller, Heater, Dehumdiller, Heater, Dehumdiller, Heater, See and the set-igs, remote control. Psuchased months age will year awarenty \$780. PCS sale for \$650. at 11 8 9 3 -77 0 3 or pachinko@yahoo.com

kinser, Okinawa - Bissell Clear view Vacuum cleaner. Bag less, 12 amps, all attachments inclu-ded. Recently put new belts, light, filters, and wheels. Almost brand new condition now. \$45 c a l l is 6 3 7 - 4 3 8 6

jenn8164@yahoo.com Volkosuka, Japan - Korean Vacuum Cleaner 220V. One year old. Lilot Cuckoo LVC-2912. Very Powerful. Can't use in Japan. Worked great in Korea better than my US vacuum. \$40. Free mailing Military mail. Pictures available. Email honge@inhyloko.med.navy.med.

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Atsugi - 93 Nissan March. Four doors, CD player, good lires, well maintained inspection, JGI, and Road Tax until August 2006. Asking \$1,000. Call 284-6449. Atsugi - 94 Nissan Skyline: Dark grey, 4-door, automatic, power window, power locks, April 2005. Asking \$2,500 OBO. Call Brad 264-6153.

Atsugi - 95 Mitsubishi Chariot: CD/Cassette, new tires/battery, and tune-up. JCI until May 2005. Asking \$2,000 OBO. Call 264-3278 or 090-4223-5803.

Yokota - 1993 Nissan: Skyline GTS-1, black, 2-door, automatic, many extras, JCI until 2006 \$3600 calls 227-8627. Yokota - 1994 Honda Legend: Green, 2-door, automatic, CD player, chrome rims, JCI until July 2006, \$2,700. Call 227-3496.

Zama - 1990 Toyota Lite Acc Van. Automatic, AC, Power Windows and Locks, JCI unti May 2005. Sell for \$1000.00 Call 267-6129 after 6 PM or e-mail tofamily @wta.att.ne.jp

Autos for Sale Korea

148 2003 Ford Escape XLT, Only 8,000 Miles, Dark Blue Metallic, Power Windows, Power Locks, Leather, Air Condition, 6-Disc Changer Call Don at 732-9081 or 010-3040-7145

Humpherys - 1992 Dodge Cargo Van. New Brakes & Rotors, Wheel Bearings, Alternator, Fuel Pump, Water Pump, Too Much To list. \$1000 or Beat offer. Call Daryl or June at: Home, 031-667-2686, Cell: 016447-5553, Work 031-753-8755.

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ian - 1992 Ranger V6 toolbox. Beautiful truck. \$2,400 OBO. Call 017-346-2652 or email rusty_grubb@yahoo.com

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Yongsan - 2002 Ford F150 XLT Longbed Plick-up truck. 4X4, FX4 Offroad package, Camper shell, Dark Blue Metallic, 35K miles, 5.4 liter V-8, Auto, ABS, AC, Tiltwheel, Captains chairs, PW, PDL, CC, AM/FM Cass- 6 disc CD, Exc condition, runs & drives great. \$22,000. 0 1 0 - 4 7 2 3 - 2 1 5 7 ,

Autos for Sale Okinawa 152

Butler - 1997 Skyline R33 GT-R, Fox Silver With Less Than 21K. Many performance upgrades that were professionally instal-ied. More information can be obtain by e-mailing me at \$30.sam (gmail.com or call Sam at 090-1514-4775

Courtney - 1991 Toyota Town Ace Van FOR SALE 1200.00 0BO JCI until April 2006, CD player, power, power lock GREAT A/C. Available the arch December call Heather 622-8746 or email yorkint@bww.com

Courtney - 89 Toyota Surf asking: \$1,500 OBO, A/C good, CD player, and PCSing in January need to sell. Please call SSgt Bain at 623-4638 in evening call 622-8302

Courtney 92 Nissam Skyline GTS: EXCELLENT 2doors, JCI 7105,120K, AC, automatic, CDMP3, white 15° firms/lines lifetime warranty, tinded with dows, great body & Interior: No mechanical problems (brakes need to rotable) \$2,000.00 CBO. Contact JAVIER 622-7726/ 099-972-31VIER

Foster - 1990 Blue Mazda Miata: JCI good until April 2006. Cold A/C, CD player, automatic. 51800 OBO, MUST SELLI! Email for pictures MelissaDeWayne® aol.com. Call 646-3586 (H) 641-2896

Autos for Sale - Okinawa

Foster - 91 Toyota Surf 4x4,
Gray, power everything, cold
A/C, sunroof, running boards,
brush guards, good overall
condition, very clean. Asking
S2,800 obo (willing to negotiate
a great price), please call
646-294 or email
Eric1834@aol.com

Foster = 91 Toyota Town Ace Royal Loungel Silver, Excellent Condition in and Out, Dual AC Coldil Power Everything, Moon roof, Auto, JCI till Jame 2005! Asking \$2,200 obo. Call 646=20 94 or email Eric1834@aol.com

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Foster - 1991 Toyota Camry, V6 engine, JC1 Oct 05, excellent A/C, CD player, runs great, santoof, keyleas entry, power door, seat, window, real window wiper, automatic transmission only \$1,700.00 GBD, Call Andy 666-5852(H) or 645-3559/2390 (W) andyfrous @yahoo.com Section Plates are markings.

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sims with low profile fires with extra set factory fires/firms, sildpower window, power lock, opened with the set of the set (W) andyfusu & yahoo .com
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Foster - 1992 Black Honda Integra, JCI Sept 05, 73,000 KM, A/C, C/D player, Puns Great, Well Kept, Asking 1200 OBO, Call Marc and Shenny @ 646-8258 Foster - 96 Honda Odyssey, silver, automatic, cold A/C, CD Player, sunroof, excellent condi-tion and very clean. JCl good thru July 06. Asking \$5,000, call 646-8018. Foster - 1992 Nissan 180SX: JCI Apr 2006, SR20DET black-top, Nismo clutch, TEIN suspen-sion, 17 'mis, full exhaust, Skyline 5-log / big brake conver-sion, Bitz air cleaner, Bitz meters, Cusco tension rods, \$3500. bilae 546-9018.

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joi-2nd set of tires-\$1500contact_Sakie-965 4618 or
Math-823 5921, pis by message
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to Septista State 2000 Bryahoo.com
Kadena - 1989 Daihatsu Van:
Great deal, \$500.00 JCI until
Dec. 26 2005, seats 8, new CD
transmission. Please call Jackle
at 633-7797.
Kadena - 1989 Town ACC Van JCI good until Juna 2005 \$400.
Call Steve at 633-7441 or cell at
680-5035-7977.

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due 26 May 05 Cold AC, power
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times, CDMP3 player, \$2.400.
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rinasse call Justin @ 633-0533.
Kadena - 1993 Beige 2-tone Windom: V6, power everything, BRAND NEW AC system: Have had regular tune-upp. oil ch a n g 6 s memor Really at segment car, but MUST GO ASAP. \$2.500(negotiable) 63-0678 of 63-4 0.2 2 2 or e mail kristinhaley@hotmal.com for details

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Kadena - 1993 Toyota Levin 2 door, ice cold A/C, CD/MP3 player, moon roof, power every-thing, new brakes, new battery, 16° rims, JCI 06/2006. Asking Call Street at 6337-441 or cell at | Kadema - 1993 Toylet Levin 2 | Call Street at 6337-441 or cell at | Kadema - 1993 Toylet Levin 2 | Call Advanced Street at | Call Advance

Kadena - 1994 Honda Accord Wagon. Blue/Gray Interior, cold AIC, runs and looks great! JCI until July 2005. \$2,750.00 OBO Call Jeff (W) 634-2577 (H) 633-4115. At Kadena Lemon Lot Kadena - 1994 R32 Nissan Skyline: With Rb25de engine. \$2000 OBO. Nell 633-5147 or email darkstyle@peoplepc.com

Kadena 1994 Toyota Rav-4: Automatic, Blue exterior, Gray interior. S. 2700. OBO JO 10/2005. Fog Lights, Power Locks, Premium Sound, AM/FM Radio, CD Player, Air Condition-ing, Power Steering, Power Windows, Rear Window Wiper, Trinted Windows, Super-roof/Moon-roof, Premium Wheels, Four new tires bought

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Kadena • 95 Honda Integra silver-4DR. Auto evenything cold A/C, runs great. Asking \$2,500, call with an offer. Phone # 633-0294 or E-mail pamperingkitchens@yahoo.com roof/Moon-roof, Premium Wheels. Four new tires bought in Sep 04. Chris Marsh 632-8814/633-6937. Kadena - 1995 Toyota Mark II Tourer V, JCI Feb 2006, fully loaded & very clean, perfectly timed Twin Turbo engine, auto-matic, PWR Windows, seats, locks, mirrors and sunroof. Dark

matic, PWR Windows, soats, tocks, mirrors and sunnool. Dark Hunter Green exterior wil Gray contour seats, near wing spoint withing brake light, teffed windows, stallelies racing orthaust, down, stallelies racing orthaust, and the stallelies and s

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Antilock braiking system, duel
airbags, CD, TV and Gibbal
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drive, parking monitor, dual sun
roots, 83k km, new tres plus
set with alloy rims excellent
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Low mileage, only 73,000km.
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ploss.

Great truck must sell due to new baby in the house and need the money. Call Kevin at 633-4364 or 090-6866-2675.

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Kadena - 1996 Honda Integra:
Silver, 2-door, JCI good through
February 2006. Cold Alc. runs
great. CD player. \$2,500.00 will
take payments. Call 983-7872 Kadena - MUST SELL by Jan.
PCSIng! 1991 Toyota Carina:
4dor, blue, Power windows and
locks. Pane Great and AC works
Great! JCI is due next month.
Asking S800 if interested, please
call 633-8277 anytime to see or
drive the car. Kadena - 1988 Toyota Chaser
Touer V Pearl Write, Low KA.
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Exhaust, Teir Suspension, Bitz
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Courtney, Okinawa - Black BMX bike for sell: Bought 2 years ago for \$150 but biking isn't my thing. Please call Nib & 622-6625 or shady, styles@hot-mail.com for more details.

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Okinawa - We Have a FREE cat. Male, neutered and all black, good with family and kids. We have one cat but just to much , and would like to just have one. His name is baget and would like to go to a good home. Please call 964-2036, we live in ishikawa chy

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Atsugi - Sony Cybershot F828 8MP camera. Only 4 months old. Works perfectly, just want upgrade to DSLR. Comes with all OEM floms. Will include 32MB memory stack. 57:00. Ask for Kevin at 264-6390 before 7pm JST

Photography

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of Power Rod resistance and training manual all in excellent condition. \$550, please call Glen @02-749-7824.

Yokota - Wanted - Electric Treadmill that inclines and has safety key. Call 227-3302 or email DanRTodd@aol.com

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Atsugi, Japan - 22 Videotapes of the classic 70's show "Good Times", 88 episodes total paid \$220.00, but asking for \$100.00 brand new condition. PCS'ing s o o n . E m a i i : dlanisha148yahoo.com

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Johnson, Yankees agree on extension

The Associated Press

第3種郵便物認可

NEW YORK - Randy Johnson and the New York Yankees reached a preliminary agreement Thursday on a \$32 million, two-year contract extension, The Associated Press learned.

Big Unit waived his no-trade clause as part of the agreement, a baseball official and a person close to Johnson said on condition of anonymity

Arizona's trade with New York, which was tentatively agreed to last week, calls for the Diamondbacks to receive pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsev, catcher Dioner Navarro and \$9 million. Only one step remains for the

five-time Cy Young Award win-ner to join the Yankees: All players involved in the trade must pass physicals.

The Yankees, Diamondbacks and agents for the players were working Thursday on the logis-tics of arranging the medical

Johnson would join a starting mtation that includes Mike Mussi na, Kevin Brown, Carl Pavano, Jaret Wright. Tanyon Sturtze is viewed as a possible sixth starter should Brown, who has had back problems, get hurt again.

The 41-year-old left-hander's current deal calls for a \$16 million salary in 2005, of which \$6 million is deferred at 2 percent in-terest. New York and Johnson's agents, Alan Nero and Barry Meister, were completing the structure of the new contract Thursday

Ponson apologizes for involvement in fight in Aruba

ORANJESTAD, Aruba - Baltimore Orioles pitcher Sidney Ponson apologized for his involvement in a Christmas Day fight on beach in Aruba, though he didn't mention allegations that he punched a judge.

"I'd like to say that I'm not at all proud of what happened and

MLB briefs

the way I behaved on the beach that particular day," Ponson told reporters Wednesday in his native Papiamento language before boarding a private jet headed to Miami. "I would like to apologize to everybody, but especially to the young people of Aruba, who always considered me their role model. I'm very sorry for what took place and I would surely never let this happen again

Ponson also apologized to the judge and three other people who were on the beach. He did not take any questions before getting on the jet with his agent.

Ponson was released from jail Tuesday after a week in detention while nolice investigated allegations that he punched a judge. 28-year-old right-hander faces charges of public violence and simple aggression.

His trial was set for March 3, when he would be in spring training with the Orioles. It was not clear whether Ponson would be required to attend the trial

Indians, Millwood near deal

CLEVELAND - Free agent right-hander Kevin Millwood and the Cleveland Indians are a phone call or two away from agreement on a \$7 million, one-year contract.

Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro said Thursday that he and Millwood's agent, Scott Boras, have made significant progress in negotiations over the past 48 hours as they work to-

ward finalizing a deal Talks between the sides have dragged on for weeks, slowed by medical tests the Indians required of Millwood, personal matters and Boras being tied up with other high-profile free agent clients

As long as there are no further

delays, the Indians are likely to announce the signing in the next two days. The deal would contain \$1 million in performance bonus es, with Millwood earning the full amount if he makes 34 starts or pitches 210 innings

White Sox agree to one-year deal with Pierzynski

CHICAGO - The Chicago White Sox got the veteran catcher they've been lacking Thursday, agreeing to a \$2.25 million, one-year deal with A.J. Pierzyns-

Pierzynski is one of the better offensive catchers in the league, a career .294 hitter who has batted above .300 twice and was an All-Star in 2003. Over the last four years, he ranks second among all catchers with 127 doubles, third with a .293 average and seventh with a .438 slugging

Zaun stavs with Blue Javs

TORONTO - Free-agent catcher Gregg Zaun agreed Thursday to a one-year contract with the Toronto Blue Javs that guaran-

tees him \$1.05 million. Zaun hit .269 with six home runs and 36 RBIs in 107 games with Toronto last season. He became the No. 1 catcher after Greg Myers' season-ending ankle injury in late April.

Toronto General Manager J.P. Ricciardi said Zaun will remain the No. 1 catcher. Myers agreed to a minor league contract last month and was invited to spring training

Pirates, SS Wilson agree to \$8 million, two-year contract

PITTSBURGH - All-Star shortstop Jack Wilson and the Pittsburgh Pirates avoided salary arbitration Thursday by agreeing to an \$8 million, two-year con

Wilson will make \$3.4 million in 2005 and \$4.6 million in 2006.

and he has the chance to earn additional award bonuses The Pirates planned a news

conference Friday with the 27-year-old Wilson, the first Pitts-burgh shortstop in 96 years with more than 200 hits in a season Wilson's 201 hits last season matched Hall of Famer Honus Wagner's career high-tying total

Grudzielanek to replace Womack at 2B for Cards

ST. LOUIS - Free-agent second baseman Mark Grudzielanek agreed Thursday to a \$1 million, one-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals

Grudzielanek, who can earn up to \$500,000 in performance bonus es. will replace Tony Womack. who played one season batting leadoff for the Cardinals before signing last month with the New York Yankees.

St. Louis signed David Eckstein to replace shortstop Edgar Renteria, who signed with Boston. Eckstein, who helped Anaheim win the 2002 World Series. got a \$10.25 million, three-year

Grudzielanek, 34, batted .307 with six home runs and 23 RBI in 81 games for the Chicago Cubs last season despite missing more than two months because of an inflamed Achilles' tendon

Valdez re-signs with Marlins MIAMI — Right-hander Ismael Valdez and the Florida Marlins

agreed Thursday to a one-year Valdez, who made \$800,000 last season, declined the Marlins

offer of salary arbitration last month and had until Saturday to re-sign. After that, Valdez re-sign. After that, wouldn't have been a able to re-sign with Florida until May 1. Valdez was 14-9 with a 5.13

ERA last year for San Diego and Florida: he went 5-3 with a 4 50 ERA in 11 starts with the Mar-

D-backs. Green fail to reach agreement

PHOENIX - The Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers slugger Shawn Green failed to reach an agreement on a contract extension by the Thursday deadline, leaving the tentative trade in jeopardy of falling through.

The Dodgers had granted the Diamondbacks a 48-hour window, until 10 a.m. MST, on Thursday to negotiate with

"The window has expired. There is no agreement," Major League Baseball spokesman Pat Courtney said in New York

Neither Diamondbacks general partner Ken Kendrick nor Green's agent Greg Genske returned telephone calls. The New York Yankees,

meanwhile, reached an agreement on a \$32 million, two-year contract extension for Randy Johnson, a prerequisite to the Big Unit waiving his nostrade clause for a deal to New York.

Arizona is to receive pitch-ers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, along with prospect Di-oner Navarro, a catcher, and \$9 million for Johnson. The Diamondbacks intended to send Navarro and minor league pitcher William Juarez to Los Angeles for Green and \$8 million.

Green has one year and \$16 million remaining on his contract, which includes a no-trade clause. The prospect of his waiving the no-trade clause without a contract evtension seemed unlikely.

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

IT Site Manager K.A.B.

Three years experience in relational database management, to include database design, management, and query construction. Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint, Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Access. At least 5 years supervisory and management experience. Ability to develop and pre-sent detailed briefings and statistical analysis. Basic knowledge of desktop computer hardware and software, to include operating systems, upgrades, troubleshooting, and repair. Knowledge of the Air Force personnel system required. Must be able to obtain a National Agency Check security clearance. Must be able to speak, write, and comm unicate effectively using the English language

All resumes or applications should be sent to Robert@dellew.com





PARTIAL INDEX **OF CATEGORIES**

- Old Antiquiocements of the Confedence of the Con

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.-College basketball: Arizona at California (dld). AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Golf: PGA Mercedes Championship, second round. AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.-NBA: Philadelphia

art Minnesota. AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 10 a.m.-NBA: Philadelphia at Minnesota. AFN-Pacific/Korea, noon-NBA: Miami at Portland.

AFN-Atlantic, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Houston at
LA Lakers. N-Sports, 5 p.m.-NBA: Philadelphia at nesota (did).

AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m.-NBA: Houston at L.A. Sunday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. NFL playoffs: ESPN Sat-urday NFL Countdown. AFN-Pacific/Korea, 2 a.m. Women's col-lege basketball: Georgia at Louisiana State. AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. College basketball: Manyland at Worth Carolling. Maryland at North Carolina.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-NBA: New York at

leveland. AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 3:30 a.m. NBA: enver at San Antonio. AFN-Pacific/Korea, 4 a.m.-Women's col-ege basketball: Tennessee vs. Connecticul AFN-Pacific/Norea,
pge basketball: Tennessee vs. Connection.
t Hartford, Conn.
AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.-College basketball:
klahoma State at Texas Tech.
AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.-College basketball: Illinois at Purdue.
AFN-Pacific/Korea,
AFN-Adific/Korea,
AFN

Louis at Seattle.

AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 6:30 a.m.-NFL playoffs: NFC wild-card game, St. Louis at Seattle. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Golf: PGA Mercedes

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Gom. Food Championship, third round. AFN-Pacific/Korea, AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.-NFL playoffs: AFC wild-card game, N.Y. a.m.-NFL playor Jets at San Dier ets at San Diego.

AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 10 a.m.-NFL layoffs: AFC wild-card game, N.Y. Jets at playofts: Arc wind care g..... San Diego. AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.-NFL playoffs: ESPN NFL PrimeTime final.

PrimeTime final: AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-College basketball: Ari-zona at Stanford (did). AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-NBA: Denver at San An-tonio (did). AFN-At Atlantic, 9 p.m.-College basketball: All times Japan and Korea Standard Times

are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information. College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

1. Illinois (15-0) beat Offlo State 84-65. Next; at Purdus, Saturday, Next; at Purdus, Saturday, Next; at No. 8 Kentucky, Sunday, 3. North Carolina (12-1) did not play, Next; s. No. 22 Maryland, Saturday, s. Wo. 22 Maryland, Saturday, c. Wake Forest (12-1) did not play, Next; at Children (10-1) beat Princeton 59-46. Next; s. Temple, Saturday, clemon, saturday.

Chemon, saturday.

Junka (194) bast Princeton 9-46. Next S. Junka (194) bast Princeton 9-46. Next S. Junka (194) bast S. Junka

Wednesday's men's scores

wrunesday's men's scores
Adelphi Sc, St. Thomas Aquinas 50
Boston College 75, Connecticut 70
Brockport 71, St. Lawrence 63
Catholic 44, Sugerishanna 61, Ora
Brockport 71, St. Lawrence 63
Catholic 44, Sugerishanna 61, Ora
Fall Frior 15, St. Lock Haven 61, Son 61
Fall Frior 15, St. Lock Haven 61, Son 61
Fall Frior 15, St. Lock Haven 61, Son 61
Fall Frior 15, St. Lock Haven 61, Son 61
Fall Frior 15, St. Lock Haven 61, Son 61
Fall Frior 15, St. Lock Haven 61, Son 61
Fall Frior 15, St. College 71, Lock 14, Son 61
Fall Frior 15, St. College 71, S Kings, Pa. 96, Marywood 77 Lyola, Md. 70, VMI 69 Manhattan 89, N. Dakota St. 47 Manhattanville 69, Staten Island 63 Michigan St. 84, Penn St. 58 Millersville 86, Elizabethtown 72 Misericordia 79, Lycoming 73 Monmouth, N.J. 83, Wagner 61

Montclair St. 75, Rowan 69, OT Mount St. Vincent 90, St. Joseph's, L.I. 80 UMBC 74, Stony Brook 67 Vermont 75, Northeastern 60 Villanova 84, West Virginia 46 Yale 60, Fairfield 57

r ane bu, Fairrield 57

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 64, Jackson St. 60

Alabama St. 71, Grambling St. 66, OT

Alcorn St. 72, Texas Southern 67

Appalachian St. 81, ETSU 79

Armstrong Albahle St. 60 Appaiacnian St. 81, ETSU 79 Armstrong Atlantic 66, Georgia College 58 Birmingham-Southern 61, Radford 59 Charleston Southern 64, N.C.-Asheville 63 Chattanooga 66, The Citadel 57 Clayton St. 55, North Florida 50 Coastal Carolina 76, Winthrop Coll. of Charleston 66, Elon 47 Davidson 81, Furman 75 Duke 59, Princeton 46 Davidson Bl., Furman, 75
Emony SB, Liderana, 75
Emony SB, Liderana, 75
Francis Marion SA, Lander ST, 77
Hamildon-Sydney 73, Methodist S6
Holder ST, William SM Mary 59
Johnson C, Smith ST, Carson-Newmar
Holder ST, William SM Mary 59
Johnson C, Smith ST, Carson-Newmar
Kentucky 73, South Carolina 75
Lipscomb BQ, Campbell 56
Mississippl St, 50, Auburn SJ
Mississippl St, 50, Auburn SJ
Mississippl St, 50, Auburn SJ
Kandolph-Marion 78, Birligiewater St, VS, ELouislana SQ, Lamar SG
Louislana SQ, Lamar SG
Southern U. 73, Parille View GJ
Southern U. 73, Parille View GJ South Florida 72, East Carolin Southern U. 73, Prairle View 6 Tampa 68, Rollins 61 Tennessee 72, Georgia 65 Transylvania 86, Deflance 76 Troy 87, Jacksonville 76 Troy 87, Jacksonville 76
UMB 83, Southern Miss. 75
UNC-Greensboro 61, Wofford 44
Va. Commonwealth 81, George Mason 74
Va. Wesleyan 84, Lynchburg 63
Vanderbilf 70, Alabama 55
Virginia 80, W. Kentucky 79, 20T
MIDWEST
Albion 76, Olivet 52
Alman 22, Kalamazoo 61
Alma 72, Kalamazoo 61

Alma 72, Kalamazoo 61 Aquinas 86, Siena Heights 68 Ball St. 81, Ohio 80 Beloit 60, Carroll, Wis. 59 Bethel, Minn. 91, St. Olaf 77 Bradley 81, SW Missouri St. 70 pragrey 81, SW Missouri St. 70 Calvin 70, Adrian 69 Case Reserve 83, Oberlin 72 Coe at Loras, ppd. Concordia, Moor. 90, Carleton 89, OT Creighton 61, Drake 58 Denison 82. Ohlo Washing Co. reighton 61, Drake 58 enison 82, Ohio Weslyn 68 ominican, Ill. 63, Concordia, Ill. 55 ubuque at Cornell, Iowa, ppd. uquesne 94, Dayton 93, 20T ustavus Adolphus 74, St. Mary's, N Duquësne 94, Dayton 93, 201 Gustavus Adolphus 74, St. Mary's, Mir Hope 91, Tri-State 72 Illinois 84, Ohio St. 65 Indiana Tech 82, Concordia, Mich. 59 John Carroll 78, Capital 71 Kansas 65, Fexas A&M 60 Kent St. 67, E. Michigan 64 Mary's Minn 57 Luther at Central, ppd. Macalester 76, Hamline 57 Miami (Oh io) 64, N. Illinois 59 Mlami (Ohio) 64, N. Illinois 59 Michigan 65, Iowa 63 Middle Tenn. 66, Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 61 Mount Union 74, Baldwin-Wallace 71 Muskingum 117, Marietta 87 MW Missouri St. 58, Missouri Western 54 North Central 86, Augustana,III. 78 Northwestern 73, Indiana 52 Pittsburg St. 75, Missouri Southern 66 Saint Louis 57, Tulane 41 Simpson, Iowa at Wartburg, ppd. St. Thomas, Minn. 72, St. John's, Minn. 43 Wisconsin 77, Purdue 68 Wittenberg 76, Kenyon 28

Arkansas 69, Mississippi 46
Houston 70, Louisville 67
Air Force 84, Texas-Pan Ame
UC Davis 75, Menio Co. UC Davis 75, Menlo 59 UNLV 92, Fort Lewis 80 Utah 81, Whitworth 60

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Wednesay .. LSU (13-1) lost to No. 14 Rutgers 51-49, 1. LSU (13-1) lost to No. 1a kutgers 51-es, OT. Next vs. No. 17 Georgia, Saturday, 2. Duke (14-1) did not play, Next vs. No. 25 Virpinia Tech, Sunday, 3. Baylor (11-1) beat Texas. A&M 64-50. Next vs. No. 7 Texas, Saturday, 4. Notre Dame (13-1) beat Syracuse 75-58. Next at Villanova, Sunday, 5. North Carolina (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Winthrop, Thursday. 6. Michigan State (12-1) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Ohio State, Thursday.

at No. 9 Offio State, Thursday.
7. Texas (6-3) beat Kansas 66-51. Next: at No. 3 Baylor, Saturday.
8. Stanford (11-2) did not play. Next: at Arizona State, Friday.
9. Ohio State (12-2) did not play. Next: vs.

Ohlo State (T.2.2) din on play. Next: us. No. Michigan state, Thursday play. Next: at. No. 15 Connecticut. Saturday.
 No. Dinchigan (1.2) did not play. Next: at. No. 15 Connecticut. Saturday.
 Texas Tech (10-2) beat Oklahoma 754e. Next: at Oklahoma 754e. Next: didahama States Saturday.
 Next: us. Villanova. Wednesday.
 Al. Rutger (2) beat No. 115. Us. 48. Or. 15. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: us. No. 15. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: us. No. 15. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: us. No. 15. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: us. No. 15. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: us. No. 15. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: us. No. 15. Connecticut.

No. 10 Tennessee, Saturday.
16. Vanderbilt (1:1) did not play. Next: vs.
North Carolina State, Thursday.
17. Georgia (11:3) did not play. Next: vs.
Mississippi, Thursday.
18. Iowa (13:0) did not play. Next: vs. Penn

18. 10wa (15-0) uni ruti piaty, recat. v. 23. 5 mills. State, Thursday. 19. DePaul (11-2) did not play, Next: at Marquette, Sunday. 20. Kansas State (9-3) lost to Iowa State 76-59. Next: at Kansas, Saturday. 21. Maryland (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. S North Carolina, Sunday. No. S North Carolina, Sunday. 10 LCLA (9-3) did not play. Next: at Washington State, Priday.

ington State, Friday.
23. New Mexico (10-1) did not play. Next: at No. 11 Minnesota, Sunday.
24. Purdue (8-4) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Thursday. 25. Virginia Tech (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Fordham. Thursday.

Wednesday's women's scores

EAST Boston College 78, Georgeto Bowling Green 70, Buffalo 45 Bridgeport 61, C.W. Post 51 Booten College TB, Georgetom 29
Bioton College TB, Georgetom 29
Bioton College TB, Georgetom 29
Bioton College TB, Wan ST, 19
College TB, Walliam Patron 55
College TB, LG, William Patron 55
Dickstron SB, Marken 19
Booten 19
Bo

Claytor St. 58, Notri Florida 46
Coastal Carolina 79, Coker 476, OT
Deflance 60, Transylvania 55
Deflance 60, Transylvania 55
Deflance 60, Transylvania 55
Furman 63, Wolfford 51
Lander 61, Francis Marjon 50
Lander 61, Francis Marjon 50
Methodist 67, Newport News 59
Miami (Ohjo) 68, Marshall 65
Miami (Ohjo) 68, Marshall 65
Miami Chip 60, Allamic 74, Villa Julie 45 Radford 59, Navy 51 S. Dakota St. 86, Alabama 83 Shaw 99, Lenoir-Rhyne 56 Southern U. 72, Prairie View 42

Souther II. 72, Prairie View 42
Tampa 61, Rollino 5, Eun 54
UNC-Greensbore 60, 100 House 10, 100
UNC-Greensbore 61, 100
UNC-Greensbore 61, 100
UNC-ST
Baldwin-Wallace 73, Mount Union 55
Bethel, Minn, 72, 50, Olaf 68
B lowa St. 78, Kansas St. 59 John Carroll 60, Capital 57 Luther at Central, ppd. Missouri 67, Oklahoma St. 49 Nebraska 84, Colorado 62 Notre Dame 75, Syracuse 58 Ohio 56, Kent St. 50 Pittsburg St. 73, Missouri Southern 63

Simpson, Iowa at Wartburg, ppd. St. Mary's, Minn. 60, Gustav Adolphus 53 St. Mary S, Minn. 60, Gustav St. Xavier 78, McKendree 63 Toledo 74, Ball St. 62 Valparaiso 68, Oakland, Mic Toledo 74, Báll St. 62 Valparaiso 68, Oakland, Mich. 63 W. Michigan 69, Cent. Michigan 64 Wie J. a Cypses 64 Wie Diver Falls 63

Wis.-Oshkosh 58, Wis.-Platteville 49 Wis.-Stevens Pt. 76, Wis.-Whitewater 72 Wis.-Stout 68, Wis.-Superior 61 SOUTHWEST Baylor 64, Texas A&M 50

Texas 66, Kansas 51
Texas 7ech 70, Oklahoma 64
EXHIBITION
Slovak Republic at Loras, ppd., weather

Skiing

World Cup

Women's downhill
SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Results Thursday from a World Cup downhill
in the 2.563-kilometer (1.6-mile) Deborah
compagnoni course:

1. Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 1 minute,

1. Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 1 minute 1.6 seconds, 2.1. et al. (1982). et al

Allexandra Messantzer, Austria, 1943.44.
15. Elisabeth Goergi, Austria, 1943.47.
15. Elisabeth Goergi, Austria, 1943.47.
15. Elisabeth Goergi, Austria, 1943.47.
16. Emily Brydon, Canada, 1943.78.
17. Elena Fanchini, Italy, 1943.70.
17. Elena Fanchini, Italy, 1943.70.
17. Elena Fanchini, Italy, 1943.70.
18. Daniela Geocarelli, Italy, 1943.70.
18. Daniela Georgeni, 1943.70.
18. Brajitte Domensoer, Austria, 1944.49.
21. Brajitte Domensoer, Austria, 1944.49.
22. Julia Mancuso, United States, 1944.49.
23. Nadia Fanchini, Italy, 1944.69.
24. Trun Maze, Slovenia, 1944.59.

25. Monika Dumernson, 44.59. 26. Carmen Casanova, Switzerland, 44.7.1 Strid Vierthaler, Austria, 1:44.76. 27. Astrid Vierthaler, Austria, 1:44.76. 28. Martina Ertl, Germany, 1:44.77. 29. Julie Duvillard, France, 1:44.78. 30. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 1:45.00. Did Not Start

States; Angelika

30. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 1:9-5.00.
Melanie Turgeon, Canada
Did Not Finish
Stacey Cook, United States; Angelil
Gruener, Italy; Resi Stiegler, United State
Cathrine Mesinaget, Noryay
Selina Heregger, Austria.
World Cup Standings
Overall
(After 13 events)
1. Tanja Poutlajnien, Finland, 525 points.
2. Janica Paerson, Sweden, 539.
3. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 539. 2: Janica Kostellic, Croatia, 559.
2: Janica Kostellic, Croatia, 559.
3: Anja Paerson, Sweden, 539.
4: Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 457.
5: Hilde Geng, Cermany, 38.
5: Hilde Geng, Cermany, 38.
6: All Common March 1998.
6: Al

oints. 2. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 220. 3. Carole Montillet-Carles. F . Carole Möntillet-Carles, France, 185. Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 182. Renate Goetschi, Austria, 175. Isoide Kostner, Italy, 101. Sylviane Berthod, Switzerland, 98. Caroline Lalive, United States, 84. Ite). Brightte Obermoser, Austria, 84. 0. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 82.

Tennis

ATP Next Generation Hardcourts

Hardcourts
Thursday
At Memorial Drive
At Memorial
At M

Qatar Open

Thursday
At The Khalifa Tennis Centre
Doha, Qatar
Purse \$1 million (Intl. Series)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Federer (1), Switzerland, def

Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Feli-ciano Lopez (7), Spain, 6-1, 6-2. Nikolay Davydenko (8), Russia, def. Sebas-tlen Grosjean (3), France, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

WTA Gold Coast

WTA Gold Coast

Turnday

Turnday

Gold Coast, Augusta

Gold Coast, Augusta

Gold Coast, Augusta

Gold Coast, Augusta

Single

Yan Zi and Zheng Jie (4), China, def. Bry-anne Stewart and Samantha Stosur, Austra-lia, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4. Maria Elena Camerin and Silvia Farina Elia, Italy, def. Barbara Schett, Austria, and Patty Schnyder (1), Switzerland, 6-4. 6-4.

WTA ASB Classic

At ASB Bank Tennis Centre Auckland, New Zealand Purse: \$140,000 (Tier IV) Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Surface: Mard-Outdoor Singles Quarterfinals, Solvenia, leads Shahar Peer, Israel, 6-1, 0-1, susp., rain.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with Ron Gardenhire, manager, on a two-year contract extension through the 2007 season. TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with Rif Alex S. Gonzalle on a one-year contract extension through the 2007 season.

CINCINNATI REDS—Named Tyler Wilt SCOUT.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Named Don Buford 1B coach, Dave Huppert 3B coach, Jack
Voigt roving coach, Jose Rijo special assistant to the general manager, Jose Cardenal

special adviser to the general manager and Scott Lawrenson assistant athletic trainer. RASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS—Waived F Tommy Smith.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Activated G Da-luan Wagner from the injured list. Placed F Luke Jackson on the injured list. Placed F DENVER NUGGETS—Waived C Mark Pope DETROIT PISTONS—Released F Derrick oleman. Signed G Anthony Goldwire to a Coleman. Signed G Anthony Goldwire to a 10-day contract. LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Signed G Darrick

Martin to a 10-day contract.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Activated F Toni
Kukoc and C Daniel Santiago from the injured list. Waived G Kendall Gill and G Eddle NEW JERSEY NETS—Signed F Jerome Moiso o a 10-day contract. Waived F Kaniel Dick-

INS.

NEW YORK KNICKS - Placed G-F Anfernee
lardaway on the injured list.

UTAH JAZZ - Activated G Howard Eisley
from the injured list.

FOOTBALL

National FOOTBALL

NATIONAL CARDINALS - Named

ARIZONA CARDINALS - Named

Keith
Kowen offensive coordinator. Reassigned

sight, ends coach Mike Wilson to receivers

ch. NCINNATI BENGALS—Fired Leslie Fra-CINCINNATI BENGALS—Fired Lesile Frazier, defensive coordinator, gmed CB Brandon
Participate of the property of the property

COLLEGE
BIG EAST CONFERENCE—Announced the
didition of Loyola College as an associate
nember in women's lacrosse, effective in the 2005-06 season.
AIR FORCE ACADEMY—Named Brian Knorr lefensive coordinator.

CLEMSON—Announced CB Justin Miller
vill make himself available for the NFL draft.

DARTMOUTH—Named Buddy Teevens foot-

ball coach.
FLORIDA—Announced sophomore LB Chan-ning Crowder will make himself available for the NFL draft. the NFL draft.

FORDHAM—Announced senior G Derrick
Breland and junior G Miguel Perez have left
the basketball team for personal reasons. INDIANA—Declared freshman basketball C Lucas Steijn ineligible for the second semes-ter

er.

LOUISVILLE—Announced RB Eric Shelton
will make himself available for the NFL draft.
MARYLAND—Announced DE Shawne Merrinan, will make himself available for the NFL

man will make nimber was a control of the resignation of Noel Mazzone, offensive coordinator, to take the same position at Missisters of the retirement

ippi.
OHIO STATE-Announced the retirement if Andy Geiger, athletic director, effective

I many deeper, autore to the cook, enective many per 30.

PUTPS UNIFORM Planned Paul Dunn and Uniform per 30.

PUTPS UNIFORM Planned Paul Dunn and Uniform per 30.

PUTPS UNIFORM Planned Planned Terrence to the cook of the

TANK MCNAMARA



BEEN EXPECTING THIS. BASEBALL DOESN'T TRUST WASHINGTON NOT TO THOU THEM OUT OF TOWN A SECOND TIME. THEY'LL LEAK IT TO THE MEDIA THAT BASEBALL IS EXPLORING A "SERIOUS PLAN B" IN VEGAS OK, NEW RULE



Saturday a wild beginning to NFL playoffs

BY RICK GOSSELIN The Dallas Morning News

he NFL playoffs begin this weekend with the wild-card round, which pits four division winners against the four non-division-winning "wild cards." The teams with the four best records draw byes this round, giving

Analysis in the last six

Only twice in the last six years has a team that has played on the

opening weekend of the postseason advanced to the Super Bowl — Tennessee in 1999 and Baltimore in 2000. Both were wild cards, and the Ravens went on to win the championship.

Here are the why's and why not's of the four teams playing Saturday on wild-card weekend:

St. Louis Rams (8-8) at Seattle Seahawks (9-7) RAMS: WHY THEY CAN WIN

— Officiating emphasis. NFL supervisor of officials Mike Pereira says the crackdown on illegal contact will continue in January and games will be called in the post-season the same way they were called in the regular season.

That's great news for the passing teams. Few teams are as heavily reliant on the pass to win games as the Rams, who finished fifth in the NFL in passing, Quarterback Marc Bulger had two 400-yard games and passed for 3,964 yards despite missing two games with injuries. Any time the ball is in the air the Rams have a chance.

RAMS: WHY THEY WONT—
Road woes. Wild-card teams must play on the road. The Rams are a wild-card team that can't win on the road. The Rams went play on the road. The Rams went have a wild-card team that can't win on the road. The Rams were passon and 2-6 away from it. The Dolphins beat the Rams in Miami to snap an 0-6 start. The Rams were paddled in December by the 6-10 Cardinals in Arizona, 31-7. They also were spanked by good teams, losing 40-22 in Foxtor to the Patriots and 45-17 in



New York Jets defensive end Shaun Ellis (92), celebrates Jonathan Vilma's 38-yard interception return for a touchdown against the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis on Sunday. Ellis, who had 11 sacks this season, will be leading the Jets' defensive charge against the San Diego Chargers on Saturday.

Green Bay to the Packers. Make the Rams wear their white road jerseys and they become football pacifies

SEAHAWKS: WHY THEY
CAN WIN — Opportunism. The
Seahawks are soft on defense.
They were the only division champion that allowed more points
(373) than it scored (371), and
only six NFI. defenses allowed
more yards than the Seahawks.
But this defense has survived by
forcing turnovers. The Seahawks
finished third in the NFI. in interceptions (23) and sixth in takeceptions (23) and sixth in take-

Turnovers create good field position for your offense. Thirteen Seattle defenders came up with takeaways on interceptions or fumbles.

Cornerback Ken Lucas intercepted six passes and recovered

ALLIAWKS: WHY THEY WONT—No momentum. The Seahawks looked like a Super Bowl
contender in September when
they rolled to 3-0. But Seattle
blew a 17-point fourth quarter
lead at home against St. Louis in
Week 4, losing 3-327 in overtime,
and hasn't been the same team
since. The Seahawks staggered
down the stretch with a 6-6
record, including a blowout home
record, and the same team
ing road loss at Arizona. Seattle
ing road loss at Arizona. Seattle
ing road loss silke a Super Bowl

contender. You want to be playing your best football of the season in December, not September.

New York Jets (10-6) at San Diego Chargers (12-4)

JETS: WHY THEY CAN WIN

— Defensive bookends. Ends
John Abraham and Shaun Ellis
anchor a stout run defense and
frantic pass rush. Ellis was a Pro
Bowler in 2003 and Abraham in

Ellis had 11 sacks this season and Abraham 9½. They also combined for 105 tackles to muscle the Jets into the top five in the NFL in run defense. They are the type of size/speed ends Bill Parcells would love as bookends in

his defense. In fact, Parcells selected both in the first round of his final draft with the Jets in 2000. They control the edges of the defense.

Abraham, who has missed the last month with a sprained lateral collateral ligament in his right knee, is listed as probable on the injury report.

JETS: WHY THEY WON'T —
Offensive imbalance. The Jets
rank third in the NFL in rushing
but 22nd in passing.

They generated fewer than 200 yards passing in 10 games and failed to throw a touchdown pass in five of them. Cutris Martin had a terrific season, contending for a smack into eight-man fronts. He'll probably see nine-man fronts in the postseason as defenses dare soft-armed Chad Penning-ton to throw. The Jets managed two individual 100-yard receiving games. The Cotts had an

CHARGERS: WHY THEY
CAN WIN — Coaching Marty Schottenchemer has been much-maligned
because he has never taken a
team to the Super Bowl in his 19
seasons as an NFL head coach.
What can't be disregarded is the
fact he ranks eighth in career victories (177) and has suffered only
two losing seasons. He engineered a 10-victory improvement
at San Diego from 2003 to 2004.
He's reached three conference
at San Diego from 2003 to 2004.
Danian Tomlinson provides the
best version yet of Martyball.
CHARGERS: WHY THEY

CHARGERS. WHY THE WAY THE WON'T — Travel If the Chargers win their first-round game in sunny Southern California, they probably will have to travel to the Eastern time zone on three consecutive weekends. That would be a boon for their frequent flyer burgh (AFC semifinals), 2.58 miles to Boston (AFC finals), 2.58 miles to Boston (AFC finals) and then 2,088 miles to Boston (AFC finals) for the Cross-country flights in a span of three weeks takes a toll on the body. San Diego played its only somethed by the 49ers, 49-26. was smoked by the 49ers, 49-26.

Oddsmakers, matchups favor Seahawks, Chargers, Colts, Pack

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

The NFL playoffs are usually easier to handicap than the regular season for a simple reason: The better teams are at home.

So the oddsmakers automatical-

ly give the three points for home-field advantage, plus a few more for being better. That's the case as the playoffs start this weekend.

The closest line is in Seattle, where the Seahawks are favored by four over the Rams, even though St. Louis won both meetings between them in the NFC West, easily the league's worst division.

That's one of two division matchups this weekend. The other is in Green Bay, where the

NFL picks

Packers and Vikings play for the third time this season. In fact, all four games are rematches, although Broncos-Colts is barely that — Indianapolis played scrubs in Denver last week.

The picks:
St. Louis (plus 4) at Seattle:
The Seahawks' problems this year started in their fourth game, when they were unbeaten and led the Rams by 17 points at home with just more than 6 minutes to go. They lost 33-27 in overtime and later fell 23-12 in St. Louis.

It shouldn't happen again, although Seattle is in psychological disarray.

Shaun Alexander "apologized"

for complaining about not getting the ball for the Seahawks' final touchdown against Atlanta last week and losing the rushing title by 1 yard to the Jets' Curtis Martin. But there was an edge to the apology.

Nonetheless, St. Louis was 2-6 on the road this season, Seattle is more talented anyway and ... SEA-

New York Jets (plus 6) at San Diego: Another rematch: New York won 34-28 in Week 2, when the Chargers didn't know they were good.

Since then, San Diego has gotten better and the Jets have gotten worse, in part because Chad Pennington is playing with a sore rotator cuff, something his many critics in New York don't seem to have considered in taking shots at Pennington doesn't have the strongest arm when healthy. Now he can hardly throw deep at all, allowing defenses to stack for Curtis Martin. San Diego will do that and ... CHARGERS, 24-16.

Denver (plus 10) at Indianapolis: The Broncos made the playoffs by beating the visiting Colts, who used Jim Sorgi at quarter-

These are the Colts with Peyton Manning, who beat Denver 41-10 in last season's first round at the RCA Dome.

That caused Mike Shanahan to revamp his defense, bringing in Champ Bailey and John Lynch to help the secondary. They have, but they're not going to shut down Manning, Edgerrin James and the Marvim Harrison-Reggie Wayne-Brandon Stokley troika. ... COLTS, 31-17. Minnesota (plus 6) at Green Bay: The Packers won both meetings this season 34-31, the latest in Minneapolis on Dec. 24. And their secondary is certainly vulnerable to Daunte Culpepper, Randy Moss and Nate Burleson, although Moss provoked some discord by walking off the field with 2 seconds left in the Vikings' loss in Washington last week.

Nonetheless, the most telling numbers are these: The Packers won nine of their final 11 games; the Vikings lost seven of their last 10, the second straight season they've done that.

The Lambeau magic isn't what it used to be, but ... PACKERS,

34-31.Last week: 7-8-1 (spread), 9-7 (straight up).

Regular season: 111-123-6 (spread), 156-84 (straight up).

San Francisco looks to L.A. for its savior

BY TIM KAWAKAMI

San Jose Mercury News

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - Pete Carroll has everything, except NFL validation. The San Francisco 49ers have nothing,

except jobs to fill and money to spend. You can see where this is leading. You can't miss

it now. If things go as the 49ers wish, here's how it works: One successful coach's Super Bowl ambition plus an unsuccessful franchise's desperation adds up to Carroll, who inst led USC to a national title, being offered

more than \$20 million to revive the 49ers. It may not play out that way, depending on Carroll's chemistry with 49ers owner John York and the 49ers' willingness to give the 53-year-old Marin native major

bucks and total personnel control. It may not even be a good marriage for ei-

ther side. Just a convenient one. But it was clear Wednesday that the Great Search for a Savior will start at Carroll's door

Does Carroll still have the NFL itch after back-to-back national titles with the Trojans, including Tuesday's 55-19 walloping of Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl?

Would he leave the best college job in America for the worst one in the NFL? Does York have the ability to close this deal? Is Carroll truly serious, or is this all a tease?

The 49ers are about to find out. Things have broken apart in 49erland. York just spent more than \$10 million to create an opening for Carroll, and he thinks Carroll

"Well, I think we all watched the game last night," York said Wednesday when asked about Carroll's candidacy. "I think it was a tremendous game. They were very dominant. And he's a great coach.'

From the moment that York announced that he was discarding his coach, Dennis Erickson, and his general manager, Terry Donahue, you could feel the organization

tilt toward Carroll's USC fiefdom: ■ Carroll has Bill Walsh's blessing, pro-

claimed in a column Walsh wrote in the Los Angeles Times about the Orange Bowl "Pete Carroll is the most dynamic coach

- in all of football right now," Walsh wrote. ■ Carroll has the fire and charisma that Erickson - who also won two college national titles - never displayed.
- When York described his criteria for his search, he sounded like he was giving Carroll's résumé.

He must have NFL experience (Carroll has loads, including a 1995-1996 stint as the 49ers' defensive coordinator); but "not necessarily" successful NFL head-coaching experience, and he must come from a winning program.

York all but guaranteed that the coach would be the team's No. 1 decision-maker and that the general manager would answer to the coach

Carroll has always maintained that his 27-21 coaching tenure in 1997-99 with the New England Patriots was ruined because he did not have full control. (He also had one fruitless season coaching the New York Jets.) York wants a Bill Belichick super-power coach. Carroll has always



Southern Cal coach Pete Carroll was 33-31 in four NFL seasons, three with New England and one with the New York Jets.

wanted to be an NFL super-coach, and he has an old Jets comrade, Pat Kirwan, who could be his GM-in-waiting.

Carroll badly wants to win a Super Bowl and is tired of hearing that he's a great fit only for college. No matter how cushy the college situation, every football coach wants to win a Super Bowl.

Listen to Erickson talk about the Super Bowl, as he said goodbye to the 49ers: "That's why I left Oregon State, that's why I left college football, that's why I came here. I wanted to come in and have the opportunity to win the biggest prize of them all. Obviously that didn't happen

■ Carroll apparently has the backing of several 49ers alums who have recently grabbed York's ear, including Ronnie Lott and Tim McDonald.

I don't know if this signals a dramatic change in York's methods, but listening to key retired players is a decent start.

- Carroll was spotted chatting with Nick Saban, the former LSU coach, on the field Tuesday before the Orange Bowl. Think Carroll was pondering the \$4.7-million-a-year deal Saban received from the Miami Dolphins?
- Removing Carroll from USC could mean the end of the Trojans' yearly beat-down of Notre Dame, York's beloved alma mater. (Just kidding on that one. I think.)

Now, the obvious question: Hasn't Carroll already shown that winning big in the NFL might not be his fate?

"Pete was in the wrong environment a couple times," Walsh wrote in the Times. 'No matter how well he did, everything was stacked against him. But now he's broken out and proved that he's a great coach."

Still, if Donahue was a questionable choice to run the 49ers because he had no NFL personnel experience, what makes Carroll worthy of complete control?

Is this vet another York blunder, after ridding himself of two previous blunders? Or will York mess up this hiring, anyway? Those are all things for York to answer, al-

though I'm pretty sure he has already come un with his own \$20 million conclusion

Close to scrapheap, Brees now a keeper

BY BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - When the San Diego Chargers reported to training camp in late July, they were summoned to a players-only meeting by Drew Brees.

It might have been a bold move, because it would be several weeks before coach Marty Schottenheimer decided Brees would keep his job as starting quarterback

Brees still considered himself the starter even after a rough 2003 season, and his message was simple: Don't listen to the naysayers who thought there was no way the NFL's worst team would be better

"Well you know what? The people who were going to determine what we were going to do were in that room," Brees recalled after he was voted The Associated Press 2004 Comeback Player of

"So that was my point: 'Look around, guys. It's just us. Know that we control our own destiny. Nobody else does. Don't worry about what people say, just focus on what we do

Brees has gone from forgotten man to one of the NFL's best quarterbacks. He'll make his playoff debut Saturday night when the AFC West champion Chargers host the wild-card New York Jets.

Brees made his fourth NFL sea-

son his best, ranking third in pass er rating behind Peyton Manning and Daunte Culpepper, and making his first Pro Bowl. The former Purdue star and first choice in the second round of the 2001 draft. Brees completed 262 of 400 pass es for 3,159 vards, 27 touchdowns and only seven interceptions.

His 104.8 rating was 37.3-point improvement over the previous year.

Brees earned 181/2 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, easily beating Carolina linebacker Mark Fields, who received 10 votes. Fields was sidelined last season with Hodgkin's disease.

With Brees the starter for most of 2003, San Diego went 4-12. He played a primary role in that flop with 15 interceptions and just 11 touchdown passes, was benched five straight games and yanked from two others.

"I could turn on the film and watch myself last year and say, 'That's not me. That's not the way I play," Brees said.

But the Chargers thought other-

General manager A.J. Smith told anyone who would listen that the Chargers needed to "upgrade" at quarterback.

The Chargers so doubted Brees that they drafted Eli Manning with the top pick last April, then traded him to the New York Giants for the rights to another high-

2004 NEL COMERACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

A cool Brees tops the list

San Diego's Drew Brees was selected The Associated Press' NEL Comeback Player of the Year, after a tumultuous 2003 season in which he was benched for five



games down the stretch.

ATT COMP PCT YDS TO INT

400 262 65.5 3.159 21 7 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

▶ Selected to the 2005 Pro Bowl. ► Had 27 TDs and just seven INTs, compared to 15 INTs and 11 TDs last vear when the Chargers were an NFL-worst 4-12.

Voting by a nationwide nanel

of the media	
Drew Brees, San Diego	18 1/2
Mark Fields, Carolina	10
Willie McGahee, Buffalo	6
Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh	4 1/2
Corey Dillon, New England	4
Michael Vick, Atlanta	3
Brian Griese, Tampa Bay	- 1
T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Cir	n. 1

ly rated quarterback prospect Philip Rivers. Had Rivers not held out for half the preseason, Brees might not have gotten on the field in '04 - he wasn't chosen as the starter until six days before the opener.

Nemesis: Marty has a track record of short playoff runs

A year later, in Denver, 175-pound Broncos cornerback Jeremiah Castille stripped the ball from running back Earnest Byner at the Denver 2 with 1:05 left. Denver won, 38-33.

remembers Schottenheimer that receiver Webster Slaughter was supposed to run a route into one corner of the end zone.

'But he was a young player and he was interested in seeing what happened on the play so he took one step and he stopped," Schot-tenheimer said. "Well, when the defender saw him stop, he looked back and saw the runner come and he took off. He never would have been in the play if they had just run up in the corner of the end zone. Byner never saw him coming."

. 1995. Schottenheimer's Chiefs had the NFL's best record and were shocked 10.7 at home by the wild-card Indianapolis Colts. The Chiefs committed an uncharacteristic four turnovers and Lin Elliott missed three field goals. The same Colts, by the way,

oset the Chargers 35-20 on Dec. 31, 1995, San Diego's most recent playoff game.

Schottenheimer's last playoff game was after the 1997 season. and again Elway ended his sea-son, 14-10 in Kansas City.

Linebacker Donnie Edwards, now in his third year with the Chargers, remembers the Chiefs collapsing against another wild-card team after again going





like, 'Season over, what do 's pow?' " Edwards said Edwards admits the Chiefs prob-

ably overlooked the Broncos, who went on to win the Super Bowl. That was also the game in which Schottenheimer went back to quarterback Elvis Grbac even though Rich Gannon played well in relief while Grbac was injured.

Schottenheimer savs he never wonders why he's had such bad luck, "because then you have to go and look at the ones that went your way. You know they're single-elimination going in. Hell, we went six quarters against the Jets to win in that year of 'The

It was Schottenheimer's fourth

straight playoff loss.

Edwards said Schottenheimer has eased up on the Chargers in practice, which could be a key Saturday night.

"I know in the past it wasn't like that at all," Edwards said. 'We were in pads and we were banging. In that respect, it's total-ly changed. That's huge right there. He's taken them off us so we can be ready, set to go and fast on Saturday."

And maybe change their coach's luck

Weary Suns end Rockets' winning streak

By JOEL ANDERSON The Associated Press

HOUSTON - A year removed from one of the worst seasons in franchise history, the Phoenix Suns are now winning even when they're road-weary and their best

player has an off-night. Shawn Marion scored 22 points, Quentin Richardson added 18 points and 14 re-



hounds and the Suns effortlessly bounced back from a draining victory in Minnesota the night before with a 108-98 win over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

"We weren't sharp. Maybe it was fatigue," said point guard Steve Nash, an offseason acquisition from Dallas who is perhaps the biggest reason the Suns are 16 games ahead of last year's

"But we were good enough. That's what we've done a lot this year. We make enough shots and do just enough to give

ourselves a chance."

Amare Stoudemire finally cooled off after a torrid two-game stretch in which he scored a total of 84 points, finishing with just 19 points on 5-for-15 shooting and nine rebounds.

But his Suns teammates picked up the slack and rolled to a relatively easy victory despite coming off an emotional 122-115 win at Minnesota the night before. Houston, meanwhile, had been off for two days since a 99-80 win over Utah and hasn't played a road game since Dec. 29.

Nash had 12 points and 13 assists, Joe Johnson had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Casey Jacobsen tied a season high with 14 points for the Suns, who won their fourth straight to improve their NBA-best record to 28-4.

Tracy McGrady led Houston with 24 points, David Wesley added 15 and Yao Ming finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. The loss snapped Houston's sea-

son-high three-game winning streak "I've never seen a team that keeps you back on your heels when you make a shot," McGrady said. "We're not used to that. Those guys get the ball out and they're gone. It was crazy tonight. You're just glad that every NBA team isn't like that.

Mavericks 118, Lakers 104: At Dallas, Jason Terry scored a season-high 28 points and was nearly perfect both in shooting

and in running the Dallas offense Terry was 9-for-10 on field goals, hitting all five three-pointers he attempted. He hit 5 of 6 free throws, and added six rebounds and five assists.

Heat 102, Knicks 94: At Miami, Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 18 rebounds, Dwyane Wade scored 21 and the Heat limited the Knicks to two field goals in a seven-minute stretch of the first half.

O'Neal made 14 of 21 shots, eclipsing the 30-point and 18-rebound marks for the third time this season. Wade added a game-high nine assists.

Magic 105, SuperSonics 87: Steve Francis scored 27 of his 35 points after half-time, and host Orlando snapped a four-game losing streak. Grant Hill scored

21 points, shooting 9-for-11.

Cavaliers 101, Hawks 85: At Cleveland Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 20 of his 28 points after halftime and Cleveland shut down Atlanta early in the fourth quarter.

LeBron James added 20 points, nine assists and six rebounds in his second game wearing a protective mask over a broken left cheek for the Cavs, who clamped down on the Hawks, blanking them 12-0 in the first 8:16 of the final quarter.

Celtics 84, Warriors 83: Paul Pierce had 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to make up for a poor outside shooting night and Al Jefferson had his first career double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Gary Payton added 13 points for the Celtics.

Bobcats 102, Timberwolves 84: Ger-ald Wallace had 21 points and 12 rebounds. and an in-your-face block on Wally Szczerbiak that he converted into a fast-break

Wallace had one of his best games as a Bobcat, turning it up during a 16-1 run that helped Charlotte break its six-game losing streak at home. He started the run with a free throw, and he hustled upcourt after blocking Szczerbiak's shot for a layup that drew a foul. His free throw made it 87-81 with 2:26 to play

Raptors 96, Kings 93: Chris Bosh had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the first back-to-back 20-point games of his career, and Jalen Rose had 20 points off the bench for the Raptors, who have won five straight

Mike Bibby had a season-high 32 points

Bucks 97, Nets 74: At Milwaukee, Joe Smith and Mike James each scored 17 points and Desmond Mason added 16 for the Bucks, who had lost three straight and eight of 11

Jabari Smith had career highs with 19 points and six assists in a season-high 36 minutes off the bench for the Nets, who came in scoring 86.5 points a game — 29th in the NBA

Bulls 95, Hornets 89: Kirk Hinrich scored 19 points and Eddy Curry added 17, helping resurgent Chicago hand host New Orleans its ninth straight loss.

The Hornets, led by Baron Davis' 21 points, erased a 14-point deficit in the second half, but the Bulls clamped down defensively, forcing New Orleans to attempt a barrage of three-pointers, most of which missed.

76ers 106, Jazz 99: Allen Iverson scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and Philadelphia won in Utah for the first time in four years

Kenny Thomas added 30 points, scoring 18 during the Sixers' 39-point opening quarter, and Marc Jackson added 14 points, making all 10 of his free throws.

Philadelphia improved to 5-2 on an eight-game road trip, which ends Friday at Minnesota. The Sixers hadn't won at Utah since Dec. 26, 2000 and had dropped 14 of 15 on the road against the Jazz.

Clippers 102, Trail Blazers 98: At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored 15 of his 31 points in the final quarter and hit a key jumper with 20 seconds remaining.

NBA scorehoard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division Boston Toronto New Jersey Miami Washington Charlotte Atlanta vision 19 12 .613 17 13 .567 16 13 .552 11 18 .379 10 19 .345

Western Conference

Southwest Division W I Pct GR								
San Antonio	26	7	788	GB				
				-				
Dallas	21	10	.677	4				
Houston	16	16	.500	91/2				
Memphis	16	17	485	10				
New Orleans	- 5	28	.067	221/2				
Northwest Division								
Seattle	23	7	.767	_				
Minnesota	16	14	533	7				
Portland		16	467	7				
Denver	14	17	452	91/5				
Utah	11	22	333	131/2				
			.333	1372				
Pacific Division								
Phoenix	28	- 4	.875	-				
Sacramento	20	10	.667	7				
L.A. Lakers	16	14	.533	11				
L.A. Clippers	16	15	.516	111/5				
Golden State	11	21	344	17				
Wednesday's games								
Cleveland 101. Atlanta 85								

Cleveland 101, Atlanta 85 Boston 84, Golden State 83 Toronto 96, Sacramento 93 Orlando 105, Seattle 87 Charlotte 102, Minnesota 84 Miami 102, New York 94 Milwaukee 97, New Jersey 74 Chicago 95, New Orleans 89 Dallas 118, L.A. Lakers 104 Dallas' 118, L.A. Lakers 104
Phoenix 108, Houston 98
Philadelphia 108, Utah 99
L.A. Clippers 102, Portland 98
Thursday's game:
Seattle at Washington
Memphis at Detroit
Indiana at San Antonio
Priday's games
Milwaukee at Toronto

Milwaukee at Toronto" Charlotte at Orlando Detroit at Boston Sacramento at Atlanta Golden State at New Jersey New Orleans at Memphis Philadelphia at Minnesota Utah at Chicago Miami at Portland Houston at LA, Lakers

Wednesday Cavaliers 101. Hawks 85

ATLANTA — Walker 9-20 4-8 26, Harringtor -12 6-8 16, Collier 3-5 0-0 6, Lue 5-12 0-0 10 Smith 5-7 1-1 11. Childress 2-11 0-2 4, Drobn jak 3-8 4-4 10, Ivey 0-1 2-2 2, Delk 0-2 0-0 0, Willis 0-0 0-0 0, Diaw 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 32-78

Villis 0-9 0-9 0, Sean - 7-25 85. CLEVELAND — James 7-14 4-6 20, Gooden 4-4 4-10, Iligauskas 11-19 6-6 28, McInnis - 15-0-0 15, Newbie 5-9-0-0 10, Traylor 3-4-0-0 15, Newbie 5-9-0-0 15, New 5-10-0, Pawlovic 2-3 0-05. 10, Pawlovic 2-3 0-05. 10,

Celtics 84, Warriors 83

Cettics 84, Warriors 83

OCIDENTATE - Murphy 6-16-15. Dunleavy 5-9 -14 M, Robinson 5-17-4 18, Cite

16-10, Folia 5-2 0-5, Folia 5-2, Dol 4, Cite

16-10, Folia 5-2 0-5, Folia 6-2, Dol 4, Cite

1-10, Folia 5-2 0-5, Folia 6-2, Dol 4, Cite

1-10, Folia 5-2, Dol 4, Folia 6-2, Dol 4, Cite

1-10, Folia 6-2, Dol 5-2, Folia 6-2, Dol 4, Cite

1-10, Bloom 5-9 0-5, Repton 6-12, Dol 4-12, Dol

1-10, Folia 6-2, Dol 5-2, Dol 6-2, Dol

10-10, Folia 6-2, Dol 6-2, Dol

10-10, Folia 6-2, Dol

10-10

Raptors 96, Kings 93

Adpuist 30°, https://dx.doi.org/10.1009/10.100

Sacramento 23 1 r 10 s 1-5: Toronto Goals—Sacramento 4-11 Bibby 2-5, Webber 1-1, Stojakovic 1-3, Mar in 0-1, Miller 0-2), Toronto 7-24 (E.William -3, Peterson 2-8, Rose 1-3, Marshall 1-5), ton 1-5). Fouled out—Webber. Rebound

(Araujo 14). Assists—Sacramento 21 (Web-ber 6), Toronto 22 (Alston 10). Total fouls—Sacramento 21, Toronto 24. Techni-cals—Bibby. A—18,288 (19,800).

Magic 105, SuperSonics 87

Magic 105, SuperSonics 87
SATILE - Levels \$16.00.20, Collison 35.
1.1, Jamps 0.46-66, Allein-195-1120, Blue 10-720, 22, Radmanol 0.416-0.71, Blue 10-72-22, Radmanol-0.416-0.71, Blue 10-72-22, Radmanol-0.416-0.7

Orlando
Three-Point Goals—Seattle 9-31 (Lewis 4-9, Allen 3-8, Ridnour 1-4, Radmanovic 1-7, Daniels 0-1, Murray 0-2), Orlando 6-12 (Francis 3-3, Turkoglu 2-5, Mobley 1-3, Nelson 0-1), Fouled out—Mone. Rebounds—Seattle 39 (Lewis 11), Orlando 59 (Battle 12). Assists—Seattle 12 (Ridnour 5), Orlando 21 (Hill, Francis 6), Told fouls—Seattle 20, Orlando 18. A—13,035 (17248).

Bobcats 102, T-wolves 84

Minnesota Charlotte Three-Point Goals—Min Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 4-19 (Griffin 2-7, Cassell 1-2, Szczerbial 1-3, Bogans 1-4), Fouled out-None. Rebounds—Minnesota 5-4 (Garrett 20), Charlotte 53 (Wallace 12), Assists—Minnesota 22 (Gassell 6), Charlotte 23 (Knjállace 12), Assists—Minnesota 22 (Gassell 6), Charlotte 23 (Knjáll 8), Total Touls—Minnesota 25, Charlotte 17, A-12,037 (23,319).

Bulls 95. Hornets 89

Bulls 95, Morrets 89

CHICAGO - Den Grinette 89

CHICAGO - Den Grinette 89

CHICAGO - Den Grinette 89

Dulon 1 50-31, Gordon 44-31, Chandler 150-31, Gordon 44-31, Chandler 150-31, Gordon 44-31, Chandler 150-31, Chandler 150-31,

rington 0-1, Dickau 0-1). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 59 (Curry, ADavis 9), New Orleans 49 (Rogers 8), Assists—Chicago 16 (Duhon 6), New Orleans 19 (B.Davis 5). Total fouls—Chicago 21, New Orleans 52. Technicals—Chicago 12, New Orleans 72. Technicals—Chicago 12, New Orleans 72.

Mavericks 118, Lakers 104

LA. LAKERS — Butler 3-8 1-1 8, Odom : -6 14, Mihm 7-13 3-4 17, Bryant 12-30 4-6 tkins 3-12 6-6 14, Grant 0-0 0-0 0, Jones

46 Ju. Minn 7-13 2-4 17, Foyard 12-30-46 21, Minn 7-13 2-4 17, Foyard 12-30-68 21, Alban 7-13 2-4 17, Foyard 2-5 2-6 10, Bernord 2-6 2-6 0, Co. 44, 43 2-6 1, Colars 36-73 2-1, 100, Alban 7-13 2-1, 100, Alban 7-13 2-1, 100, Alban 7-13 2-1, 100, Alban 7-13 2-1, Alban 7-13

Suns 108, Rockets 98

PHOENIX – Richardson 7-20 0-0 18, Marion 9-13 2-2 22, Stoudemire 5-15 9-14 19, Nash 5-13 0-0 12, Johnson 7-15 0-0 17, Huntrer 2-2 2-2 6, Jacobsen 4-7 2-2 14, Voskuhil 0-0 0-0 0. Tuals 39-85 15-20 108. Totals 39-85 15-20 108. HOUSTON — McGrady 8-25 7-8 24, Howard 4-10-1.8, Yao 6-11 2-214, Sura 1-7-0-2. Wes-ty 6-15, 12, 15, Mutombo 5-7-47-14, Barrett, Padgett 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 38-97 14-20 88. Phoenix 22 27 27 22—108 Houston Hore 24 28 32 33—98 Three-Point Goals—Phoenix 15-34 (Jaco 98) Three-Point Goals—Phoenix 15-34 (Jacobs en 4-6, Richardson 4-11, Johnson 3-6, Marion 2-5, Nash 2-6), Houston 8-28 (Barry 4-6, Wester 11-2, McCrady 1-8, Sura 9-6), Ey 2-6, Barret 1-2, McCrady 1-8, Sura 9-6), Gilden 1-6, Gil

76ers 106, Jazz 99

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 3-6 2-3 8, Tho las 11-14 8-8 30, Dalembert 4-6 0-0 8, Iversor mas 11-148-830, Dalémbert 4-6-0-8, Krerson 7-22-7-102 3, Bantons 4-7-0-9, Krover 3-5-0-8, 8, Jackson 2-10 10-10 14, Ollie 1-2-0-0, Will-lamson 1-6-2-2-4, Totals 3-6-8 2-33 106. UTAH — Boozer 8-15-8-8-24, Harpring 9-15-5-7-23, Borchard 0-0-0-0, McLeod-0-3-0-0-0, Giricek 7-12-3-318, Arroyo 5-7-0-0-10, Okur 1-3-0-0, Elsiey 2-4-0-4, Humphries 3-7-2-6-8, Snyder 2-6-3-47, Lopez 1-2-0-0-3, Totals 38-74 21-28-98.

21/28/95.
Philadelphia 39 20 18 29–106
Utah 39 20 18 29–106
Utah 21 27 25 26 – 99
Three-Point Goals – Philadelphia 5-15 (Korver 2-4, Iverson 2-8, Salmons 1-2, Iguodala 0-1), Utah 2-10 (Lopez 1-2, Giricek 1-4, Boozer 0-1, Eisley 0-1, Snyder 0-2), Fouled out-None. Rebounds – Philadelphia 41 (Iver-None. Rebunds – Philadelphia 41 (Iver-None. Rebounds – Philadelphia 41 (I

son, Dalembert, Jackson 6), Utah 48 (Boozer 10). Assists—Philadelphia 20 (Iverson 9), Utah 23 (Boozer 6). Total fouls—Philadelphia 21, Utah 29, A—18.409 (19,911).

Clippers 102, Trail Blazers 98

PORTLAND — Miles 3-8 3-5 9, Randolph 4-132-2 10, Ratliff 4-6 1-1 9, Anderson 6-11 1-1 15, Van Exel 5-14 0-0 13, Patterson 3-6 5-8 11, Stoudamire 6-10 0-0 14, Przybilla 3-4 1-3 7, Outlaw 2-3 1-2 5, Telfair 2-6 0-1 5. Totals 38-81 Outlaw 2-3 1-2 5, Telfair 2-6 0-1 5. Totals 38-81 14-23 98. L.A. CLIPPERS — Simmons 11-24 0-0 22, Brand 9-17 0-1 18, Kaman 5-11 3-4 13, Mag-gette 8-12 13-13 11, Brunson 1-5 2-2 4, Rebra-ca 2-5 0-0 4, Ross 4-7 0-6 8, Chalmers 0-1 0-0 0, Moore 1-2 0-0 2, Martin 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-85 18-20 102.

23 28 21 26- 98 23 25 27 27-102

Heat 102, Knicks 94

NEW YORK — K.Thomas 11-151-123, T.Tho-mas 3-9 2-2 9, Mohammed 3-7 5-8 11, Mar-bury 11-20 6-9 28, Houston 4-9 0-0 10, Baker 1-51-2 3, Williams 3-4 0-0 6, Ariza 2-5 0-0 4, Norris 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 38-75 15-22 94. MIAMI – E.Jones 4-8 1-19, Haslem 5-7 0-0 10, O'Neal 14-21 5-9 33, D.Jones 3-10 1-1 9, Wade 8-19 5-8 21, Doleac 0-1 0-0 0, Dooling 2-8 0-0 4, Anderson 4-8 4-4 12, Laettner 2-4

28 Do 4, Anderson 48 Hz Laettner 24 O 4, Totals 26 E 15-23 102, 19 22 32 — 94 Maria Three-Point Goals—New York 3 6 Houston 2-4, Thomas 1-2, Marbury 0-3, Maria 12-3 C 100 Maria 21-3, Marbury 0-3, Maria 12-3 S Niami 25 (Wade 9), Total folias, New York 20, Maria 18, Technicals—Mohammed. A – 20,275 (1998).

Bucks 97. Nets 74

NEW JERSEY — Collins 2-3 0-1 4, Jeffersor -19 4-4 16, Krstic 0-3 0-0 0, Carter 6-14 3-4 15 6-19-4-16, Kristic 0-3-0-0, Carter 6-13-3-15, Kidd 5-14-0-1, La, Smith 7-13-5-19, Burlor 2-11-0-0-4, Best 0-3-2-2-2, Molso 0-1-0-0-0, Vaughn 1-2-0-0, 1-10-1,

8, Hamilton 9-0-0-0, Santlago 9-0-0-0, Tela 13-55-24-34-0, Tela 13-55-24-0, Tela 13-55-24-

BC stuns UConn, off to best start in history

The Associated Pres

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut's latest loss befuddled coach Jim Calhoun.

No. 25 Boston College (12-0, 1-0 Big East) outmuscled and outhustled the defending NCAA champs in a 75-70 victory Wednesday night to jump out to their best start in school history.

"We're missing something," Calhoun said. "Leadership? Ability to listen? Sometimes kids come off championship seasons and a couple guys have answers. Unfortunately they should have



more questions."
Craig Smith scored
16 points including the
game-winning free
throw with 35 seconds

left to lift the Eagles to their third victory in 12 meetings at the Hartford Civic Center and first since 1987.

"We did not look like a Connecticut team," Calhoun said. "We gave away that opportunity of having the crowd and allowed BC to take the game away from us." In faul trouble for most of the game

In foul trouble for most of the game, Smith made the most of his 16 minutes. The 250-pound forward scored 16 points for Boston College, which joins the Atlantic coast Conference next year.

"We're not going to let people come and beat on us. We're going to put the beating on them." Smith said.

Jared Dudley led the Eagles with 17 points and was able to penetrate the lane time and again against the much bigger frontcourt of 10th-ranked UConn (8-2, 0-1).

Josh Boone dominated inside for UConn with 18 points and 15 boards, but it was the Eagles' frontcourt that prevailed.

Although the Huskies outrebounded BC 44-40, the Eagles scored 23 second-chance points on just 14 offensive rebounds.

Neutralized in the first half by foul troukey mith played just six minutes and had two points. He made up for it in a hurry in the second. He scored 10 points in the first 5½ minutes to help the Eagles rally from a seven-point halftime deficit.

UConn has dominated the series the last 17 years, winning 28 of 31 meetings, but it's unlikely they'll meet in the future because bad feelings exist over the Eagles' dealings with the ACC.

The fans clearly made their opinions known, holding up farewell signs such as "Betrayal College." Some in the sellout crowd of 16,294 sarcastically waved good



Boston College's Jared Dudley takes the ball away from Connecticut's Charley Villanueva in the second half Wednesday. Dudley paced the Eagles with 17 points.

riddance when the final buzzer sounded.

Georgetown 67, No. 16 Pittsburgh 64: At Pittsburgh, Brandon Bowman drove the lane for the go-ahead basket with 8.4 seconds remaining and the Panthers then failed twice to get off a shot, falling to the Hoyas in the Panthers' second upset loss in

as many games.

Pitt (10-2) followed up a stunning 69-66 loss Sunday to Bucknell with one nearly as surprising — only its third in 46 home games since the Petersen Events Center opened for the 2002-03 season.

Georgetown (9-3) had lost eight consecutive Big East games dating to last season, only to win its conference debut under new coach John Thompson III — the son of the Hoyas coach who was 24-10 against Pitt from 1982.99

The Hoyas hit nine of 12 three-point attempts during the first half, when they once led 28-9, then ran their Princeton-style offense featuring numerous back-door cuts and quick passes to perfection in the secNo. 1 Illinois 84, Ohio State 65: James Augustine tied his career high with 21 points as No. 1 Illinois all but abandoned its outside game for inside jumpers and

layups in its Big Ten opener.

The Illini (15-0) led by only six at half-time, but used an 13-7 run at the start of the second half to build their lead to 12 with 14:14 to go. Ohio State (11-3) never got closer than seven after that.

No. 2 Kansas 65, Texas A&M 60: Alex Galindo hit a tiebreaking three-pointer, and Christian Moody and Aaron Miles each made two free throws in the final seconds to lift host Kansas.

The Aggies (11-1) came in as 17-point underdogs despite being one of the country's last unbeaten teams. But Kansas (10-0), without injured star Wayne Simien, struggled all night against the Aggies' aggressive, pressing defense. Texas A&M, which has lost 18 straight regular-season conference games, held the Jayhawks to 41 percent shootine.

No. 5 Duke 59, Princeton 46: At Durham, N.C., J.J. Redick made all 14 of his free throws and scored 21 points, helping the Blue Devils celebrate the 65th anniversary of Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Shelden Williams had 14 rebounds for the Blue Devils, who improved to 10-0 for the fourth time in five seasons

No. 6 Syracuse 79, St. John's 65: At New York, Hakim Warrick scored 22 points and Gerry McNamara added 19 for Syracuse, which had one of its best shooting games of the season.

The Orange (14-1) opened Big East play with their 36th consecutive win over an intrastate opponent.

No. 8 Kentucky 79, South Carolina 75: Kelenna Azubuike made four three-pointers and finished with 21 points as Kentucky held on against visiting South Carolina

Chuck Hayes added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky (10-1), which won its league opener for the 17th time in 18 years. South Carolina (8-4, 0-1) has lost three games to ranked teams this season, having

games to ranked teams this season, having also dropped four-point road decisions at Kansas and No. 16 Pittsburgh. Michigan 65, No. 14 lowa 63: Brent Petway scored 14 points, and visiting Mich-

igan held off a fierce second-half rally in the Big Ten opener for both teams. Daniel Horton returned to the lineup

after missing six games with a knee injury, and finished with 13 points, two assists and a steal for the Wolverines (9-5), who won their third straight overall and third in fourth games against Iowa (12-2).

Houston 70, No. 17 Louisville 67: At Houston, Andre Owens scored 27 points, including a three-pointer for the go-ahead basket with 21 seconds left. It was Houston's first win over a Top 25

It was Houston's first win over a Top 25 team since beating then-No. 25 Tulsa on Dec. 4, 1996.

Freshman Juan Palacios had 20 points for Louisville, which lost to Houston for the first time in nine meetings.

No. 18 Mississippi State 90, Auburn 53: At Starkville, Miss., Lawrence Roberts had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Mississippi State won the teams' Southeastern Conference opener.

Winsome Frazier and Jamall Edmonson each had 12 points for the Bulldogs (13-2), the defending regular-season champions who shot 50 percent from the field to win their eighth straight over Auburn.

Vanderbilt 70, No. 19 Alabama 56: At Nashville, Tenn., Mario Moore shot 4-for-5 from three-point range and finished with 16 points.

Jason Holwerda also scored 16 points for the Commodores (10-4, 1-0 SEC), who won their sixth straight overall and beat the Crimson Tide (11-3, 0-1) for the fourth time in a row.

No. 20 Michigan St 84, Penn St 58: Alan Anderson scored 17 points and Shannon Brown added 16 to lead the visiting Spartans in the Big Ten opener for both

Michigan State (9-2) shot 30-for-59 for the game and 16-for-17 from the free-throw line in the Spartans' sixth straight win.

Villanova 84, No. 21 West Virginia 46: At Villanova, Pa., Allan Ray scored 26 points and Mike Nardi added 18 to lead Villanova, snapping the Mountaineers' season-opening 10-game winning streak.

Curtis Sumpter added 13 points and Randy Foye had 11 for the Wildcats (8-1), who won their seventh straight.

No. 24 George Washington 71, La Salle 42: At Washington, T.J. Thompson had 16 points, Pops Mensah-Bonsu had 12 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks, and Mike Hall had nine points and a career-high 17 rebounds for George Washington (9-2, 1-0 Atlantic 10).

Miami WR Parrish to skip senior season, enter NFL Draft

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Miami receiver Roscoe Parrish is skipping his senior season and will enter this year's NFL Draft, his agent said

Thursday.
Parrish scheduled a news conference for later in the day to formally announce the decision, agent Drew Rosenhaus said. Miami

officials had no immedi-

briefs

the co-MVP.

ate comment.
Parrish was Miami's
top receiver this season, catching 43 passes for 693 yards. He also averaged 16.2
yards per punt return, running two back
for touchdowns—including one in the Hurricanes' 27-10 Peach Bowl victory over
Florida on Dec. 31, a game in which he was

The S-foot-9, 172-pound Miami native was the first player offered a scholarship by Larry Coker following his promotion to head coach four years ago. He is the fourth Miami player to declare early for the draft in the past two seasons; Sean Taylor, Kellen Winslow and Vince Wilfork were all

first-round picks in 2004.

Air Force RB leaves school after cheating allegation

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Running back Eddie Moss has resigned from the Air Force Academy after a cadet honor board found him guilty of cheating, coach

Fisher DeBerry said.

Moss, of Englewood, Colo., was among six cadets found guilty of cheating in a behavioral sciences class in September, academy officials said. Four were later cleared by commandant Brig. Gen. Johnny Weida, including basketball player Dan Nwaelele.

Academy spokesman Lt. Col. Larent Fox said the second cadet who was not cleared has resigned. Fox would not release the cadet's name.

The cases against the four cadets who were cleared did not establish sufficient proof they had cheated, Fox said.

DeBerry, reached on a recruiting trip in Houston on Wednesday, said he was disappointed Moss was no longer on the team. Moss rushed for 81 yards on 10 carries in five games and scored touchdown against Eastern Washington and Utah. He was suspended Oct. 9 but continued to practice while his case was investigated. Champ Car's Jourdain

switches to Busch ride

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Champ Car driver Michel Jourdain Jr. signed a deal Thursday with Ford Motorsports to switch to NASCAR and run the full Busch Series schedule this season.

Jourdain plans to drive a Taurus for ppc Racing and will be the first Hispanic to race a full NASCAR schedule.

The 28-year-old Jourdain spent nine years in top open-wheel competition, and finished 12th in the Champ Car World Series last season in a Ford-powered car for RuSport.

The son of well-known Mexican racer Michel Jourdain Sr., he became the youngest Champ Car driver at age 19 in 1996 and was the former CART series' Most Improved Driver in 1997.

In 152 career Champ Car starts, Jourdain had two wins, 25 top-10s and nine top-three finishes. His best championship finish was third in 2003, when he raced for Team Rahal.

Sprinter Collins appeals to CAS against eight-year ban

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — American sprinter Michelle Collins is appealing her eight-year doping ban to the highest court in sports.

Collins filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport, seeking to overturn the ban imposed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency as a result of evidence collected in the BALCO steroids scandal.

No hearing date has been set. The CAS said Thursday it normally issues rulings within four months of an appeal.

The American Arbitration Association sided with USADA on Dec. 10, ruling that Collins used various performance-enhancing substances allegedly provided by the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

While Collins, 33, never tested positive for drugs, USADA charged her with doping based on patterns observed in her blood and urine tests as well as evidence from the BALCO investigation.

In addition to the ban, Collins was stripped of her 2003 world and U.S. indoor titles in the 200 meters.

SPORTS



Yankees, Randy Johnson reach preliminary agreement on two-year, \$32 million contract extension, Page 26

Schottenheimer's nemesis

Playoffs have been unkind to Chargers' veteran coach

> BY BERNIE WILSON The associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Marty Schottenheimer has never had a big problem getting his teams to the play-

When they get there, bad things happen.

Yes, Schottenheimer is the winningest active coach with 177 regular-season wins in 18½ seasons with four franchises, including 12 with his surprising San Diego Chargers this season.

When the calendar changes to January, though, it isn't as pretty. Schottenheimer is just 5-11 in the playoffs. He's become-and-done seven times, including his past three trips. None of his 11 playoff teams have reached the Super Bowl.

His defeats have ranged from epic to mystifying.

Who could forget "The Drive" and "The Fumble," consecutive AFC championship games in which his Cleveland Browns came so close to a Super Bowl, only to be denied by John Elway and the Denver Broncos?

When Schottenheimer moved to Kansas City, he made it back to the AFC title game once — and lost. He also had two teams go 13-3 and lock up home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, only to be stunned by wild-card teams in the divisional round.

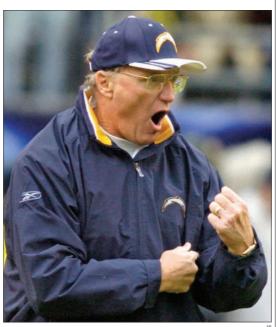
Now the AFC West champion Chargers get to leave their imprint on Schottenheimer's postseason record, for good or bad. They're favored over the visiting wild-card New York Jets on Saturday night.

day night.
"My approach is, you can't hide from it," Schottenheimer said. "It is what it is. We have not been early as effective in the playoffs as I would like to have been, but there again, there's no re-do's. And we lost some tough ones, some close ones."

His most momentous loss came on Jan. 11, 1987, in Cleveland.

With the Browns leading 20-13 and 5:32 left in regulation, Elway drove the Broncos 98 yards on 15 plays in 4:55 for the tying touchdown, then led them to the winning field goal in overtime.

"It was a terrific football game," Schottenheimer said.



Marty Schottenheimer, above, has the most regular-season victories among active NFL coaches with 177, but the San Diego Chargers' coach is just 5-11 in the postseason. His teams have been beaten in their first playoff game seven times, including the past three, and have never played in a Super Bowl.



Under Schottenheimer, the Kansas City Chiefs twice were the top seed in the AFC but lost both times in their first playoff games.



The play he remembers most is a third-and-18 just after Elway was sacked.

"He put Steve Watson in motion," Schottenheimer said. "He

was in the shotgun. When the ball was snapped it was snapped early and it hit Steve Watson in the hip, but it was a glancing blow and John had to turn and go field the

snap.
"I thought shortly afterward
that if Watson had been two inches closer to where he started rather than where he was going, the
ball would have hei hi him dead in
the hip and would have been rolling around on the ground on third
down, and even if they got it, it

would have been fourth down."

Instead, Elway completed a
20-yard pass to Mark Jackson to
keep "The Drive" alive.

SEE NEMESIS ON PAGE 29



A breakdown of Saturday's NFL playoff matchups

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Suns back up win in Minnesota with a triumph in Houston

Page 30



No. 10 UConn stopped by undefeated Boston College

Page 31



Brees selected NFL Comeback Player of '04 Page 29